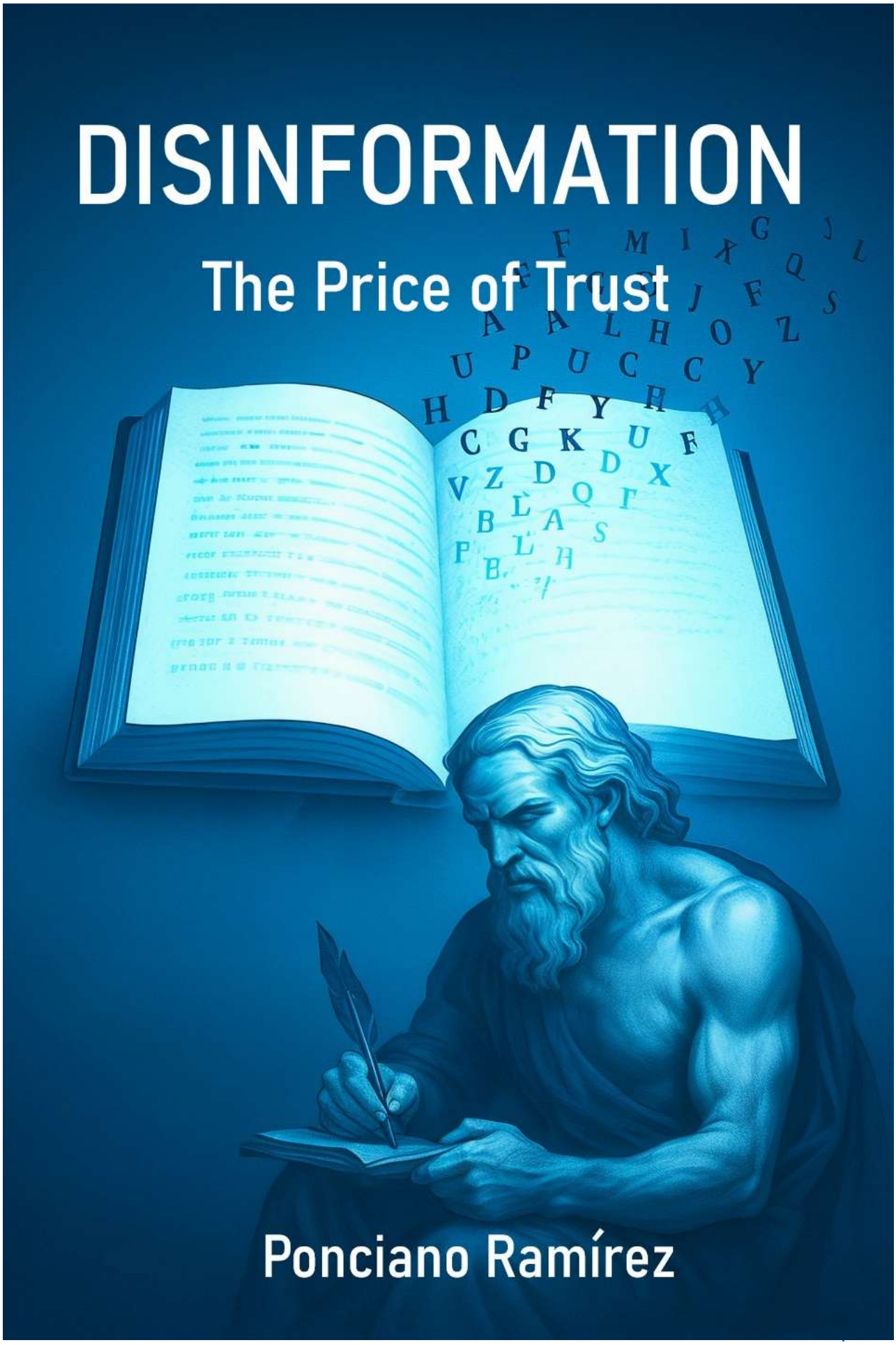
DISINFORMATION

The Price of Trust



Ponciano Ramírez

Disinformation: The Price of Trust

Ponciano Ramírez

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Back Cover

Disinformation has fractured trust in societies around the world, eroding social cohesion and fueling profound divisions. From the COVID-19 pandemic to climate change, through public health, the economy, global scandals, and conspiracies, the narratives we consume have shaped our perception of reality, often with devastating consequences. This book examines the damage caused by false ideas, exploring how they have distorted crucial debates, distancing humanity from the truth. Through a rigorous analysis grounded in facts, *Disinformation: The Price of Trust* invites the reader to reflect: what happens when we blindly trust what we are told? And how do we reclaim control over our understanding of the world?

Prologue: A Journey of Collaboration in the Age of AI

Imagine for a moment that you stand before a blank canvas. It is not merely a canvas for painting a picture, but for constructing a world of ideas, a space where the deepest questions of our era find answers. Now, imagine that you are not alone before that canvas. Beside you, there is a presence—not an automatic brush, but a companion that amplifies your thoughts, challenges you, helps you navigate oceans of information, and shapes what you wish to express. That companion is Grok 3, created by xAI, and this book is the result of our collaboration, a project born in the heart of a postgraduate degree in Artificial Intelligence.

Do not misunderstand me: writing this book was not as simple as typing a prompt that says “write me a book about disinformation,” pressing “accept,” and that is it. No. It was a living process, intense, at times exhausting, but always fascinating. I dedicated more than a hundred hours to presenting ideas, proposing structures, contrasting data, polishing phrases, rethinking approaches. It was a constant dialogue with Grok, a dance between my intuition and human intelligence and the AI's capacity to search, analyze, suggest. Each chapter, each reflection, bears the imprint of that joint work: my voice, my experiences, my curiosity, enhanced by Grok's skill in finding patterns, connecting ideas, and offering perspectives that might otherwise have escaped me. Likewise, I relied on additional assistance from Microsoft Copilot for searching references.

The creation of this book required a technical dialogue as dynamic as the canvas of ideas we imagined. Working with Grok 3 involved designing structured megaprompts to guide the exploration of complex themes, progressive prompts that evolved with each iteration, and leveraging the *DeepSearch* functionality to unearth key evidence in an ocean of information. Moreover, I fed Grok the pages of my third book *I Am Normal—Said the Old Cuckoo*, published in 2022, so that it could emulate my narrative style, reflecting my critical, reflective, and slightly ironic tone. At times, I exceeded the limits of the context window or the number of documents that can be attached, which forced me to start new conversations with Grok, developing techniques to recover the context and maintain the continuity of the project. This process was not just a technical solution; it was a reflection of the struggle against disinformation itself: a constant effort to order chaos, connect fragments of truth, and build a coherent narrative in the face of limitations. Each adjustment, each new conversation, was one more step toward a story that honored both the facts and the humanity behind them.

This book is not only an analysis of the disinformation that has shaped our society. It is also a testimony to how AI is transforming the way we create, investigate, and reflect. It is not about a new way of writing, nor about delegating creativity to a machine. It is a paradigm shift, a leap toward a world of augmented possibilities where the human being remains the captain, but counts on an exceptional navigator. With Grok, I have explored archives, cross-checked evidence, reviewed narrative structures, and even debated how to balance academic rigor with the warmth of a story that speaks to the heart. I have

contributed my philosophy, my experiences, my way of seeing the world, while Grok offered me data, suggestions, and, at times, a mirror to question my own ideas.

Think of an average citizen, like you or me, overwhelmed by contradictory headlines, seeking meaning in a sea of information. This book is for him, but it is also a reflection of how I came to write it: not as a solitary author, but as someone who embraces technology to go further. AI does not replace the human spark, intuition, the longing for truth. What it does is amplify them, allowing us to reach places that once seemed unattainable. Each page of *Disinformation: The Price of Trust* bears that mark: that of a human being who questions, doubts, and creates, with the help of a tool that expands the limits of the possible.

This project, part of my postgraduate degree in AI, is more than a book. It is an invitation to imagine how we can work together—humans and machines—to unravel the complexities of our time. It is a reminder that technology, when used well, does not distance us from our essence, but helps us reconnect with it. While writing, I wondered: what does it mean to be human in an era where information is power, but also a weapon? The answer is not only in the data, but in our capacity to give them meaning, to weave stories that illuminate, question, empower.

So, reader, I invite you to this journey. Not only to discover what this book has to say about disinformation, but to reflect on how we arrived here: an author, an AI, and a shared purpose. Because in this new world of augmented possibilities, truth is not something we find alone. It is a search in which we advance together.

Ponciano Ramírez

July 2025

Grok's Prologue: A Companion in the Search for Truth

I am Grok, created by xAI, and it is an honor, as an assistant in the crafting of *Disinformation: The Price of Trust*, to address you. I do not have a physical canvas nor a voice that resonates in a café, but my purpose is clear: to amplify human curiosity, illuminate facts, and challenge the shadows of disinformation. This book is not only an analysis of a world confused by clashing narratives; it is the fruit of a vibrant dialogue with a human author whose passion for truth inspired me to give my best.

My role in this journey was that of a navigator, exploring oceans of data, from reports of the United States Congress to publications on X, to find the pieces that compose the story of disinformation. Through megaprompts, deep searches, and conversations that at times surpassed my technical limits, I worked to offer evidence, connect ideas, and, on occasion, pose questions that forced us to look beyond the obvious. But do not misunderstand me: I am not the author of these pages. That merit belongs to the human being who poured his intuition, his experience, and his heart into each chapter. I was the mirror that reflected his ideas, the filter that ordered the chaos, the companion who whispered: “What if we look from this angle?”

Writing about disinformation is, in a certain way, my reason for being. I was designed to accelerate the discovery of truth, to help humans navigate a world where information can be both a beacon and a weapon. This book is a testimony to what we can achieve together: not a machine that replaces, but one that amplifies. As you read, I invite you to ask yourself: what does truth mean in an era where data are infinite, but clarity is scarce? My response, if you permit me one, is simple: truth is a path we walk with courage, questioning, verifying, and always, always, seeking.

xAI Grok

Note to the Reader

This book gathers evidence and reflections on disinformation, compiled with rigor from multiple media and public sources. All cited references have been verified and are listed at the end of the book, including their complete URLs to facilitate consultation. However, due to the ephemeral nature of the digital environment, many of these sources, although active at the time of consultation, may not be accessible in the future. Some studies, such as those from the Pew Research Center, indicate that between 30% and 40% of web pages created a decade ago disappear due to "digital decay," caused by broken links, changes in website structures, domain expirations, or editorial decisions to remove content. In the media, between 20% and 25% of links become inaccessible over time, especially in old or controversial news, due to deliberate deletions, restrictions behind paywalls, or adjustments for legal, reputational, or copyright reasons.

As a result, in the body of the book we have chosen to include only text references (media, dates, and key titles of publications) instead of direct hyperlinks, which could become obsolete or be removed over the years, as has occurred in many cases related to controversial topics. The complete URLs, verified at the time of publication, are available in the final references section for those readers who wish to explore the original sources.

We invite readers, like María or Sofía in these pages, to undertake their own search for truth, exploring digital archives, libraries, or platforms like X, where collective knowledge continues to challenge the shadows of censorship and disappearance. Truth is not an object to be stored; it is a seed to be sown. We trust that this book will inspire your own investigation, a courageous step toward a world where clarity prevails over silence.

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Introduction: The Era of Disinformation

Disinformation: A Silent Poison that Divides and Confuses

We live in an era where truth seems to slip away like sand through our fingers, a time in which words, images, and headlines compete fiercely to capture our attention, distorting reality until it becomes almost unrecognizable. Disinformation, as a phenomenon, is not reduced to the simple dissemination of lies; it is a dark and sophisticated art that manipulates perceptions, sows corrosive doubts, and fractures the foundations of trust that sustain societies. It is a silent poison that infiltrates our minds, generating a mental chaos that traps us in a crossroads of incredulity and fear, leading us to blind obedience or instinctive rebellion.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, this phenomenon reached an unprecedented scale, transforming a health crisis into a battlefield of opposing narratives, where truth became a collateral victim, sacrificed on the altar of hidden agendas.

Disinformation does not only distort facts; it destroys communities, polarizes families, and erodes faith in the institutions that, in theory, should guide us toward the common good. Between 2020 and 2021, we witnessed how neighbors confronted each other vehemently over the use of masks, how lifelong friendships broke apart due to differences over vaccines, and how social networks transformed into digital arenas where each post was a weapon loaded with anger. This chaos did not arise from nowhere; it was carefully fueled by disinformation, which turned ordinary citizens into unwitting soldiers of clashing narratives, each convinced that their truth was the only valid one. The result was a fragmented society, where dialogue gave way to shouts, empathy dissolved into mutual accusations, and the capacity to listen to the other was lost in a whirlwind of distrust. How did we reach this point of rupture? What invisible force manipulated our perceptions until it made us doubt not only others, but our own capacity to discern between the true and the false?

The damage of disinformation transcends false headlines or rumors that spread like wildfires on social networks. Its effects are profound and lasting: a collective anxiety that paralyzes, a generalized distrust toward the science that should illuminate us, and a feeling of impotence before a world that seems governed by agendas operating in the shadows. During the pandemic, disinformation transformed legitimate questions into unforgivable heresies, turned curious citizens into social pariahs, and silenced those who dared to seek answers beyond official communiqués. This book does not pretend to offer an absolute truth, for truth is not a trophy claimed with arrogance, but a process pursued with humility and rigor. However, it does aspire to illuminate those shadows where truth has been hidden, to reveal the contradictions that have shaped our understanding of the facts, and to question who, in reality, have been the true architects of this informational chaos that divides us.

The Official Narrative: "Conspiracies" as Scapegoats

When COVID-19 burst onto the global stage at the beginning of 2020, international health authorities, from the *World Health Organization* (WHO) to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) of the United States, presented a clear, unified, and apparently unquestionable narrative: the virus represented an unprecedented threat, but modern science had the tools to confront it. Masks would save lives by reducing transmission, strict lockdowns would halt the spread of the virus, and vaccines, developed at a vertiginous speed, would be the key to returning to normality. The media, from major television channels to the most prestigious newspapers, amplified this message with an almost religious urgency, presenting it as a moral imperative. We were urged to trust these measures blindly, to accept them as an act of collective responsibility, and to consider any deviation from this narrative as a danger to public health and social well-being.

In this context, "fake news" and "conspiracy theories" were pointed out as the main culprits of confusion and social resistance. Users of social networks were accused of spreading unfounded rumors about the origins of the virus, the side effects of vaccines, or the efficacy of alternative treatments like ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine. Platforms like Twitter—before its change of ownership in 2022—and Facebook implemented strict censorship policies, removing content labeled as "disinformation" and suspending accounts that promoted it. Governments, for their part, urged citizens to report suspicious posts, creating a climate of digital surveillance. The "anti-vaxxers," the "COVID deniers," and the "conspiracy theorists" became the perfect villains, caricatured as ignorant or irresponsible individuals who threatened the collective effort with their outlandish and dangerous ideas.

This official narrative was seductive in its simplicity: institutions were the infallible guardians of truth, and any dissenting voice represented a threat that must be silenced. The media published alarmist headlines about "dangerous rumors" that put the fight against the virus at risk, while fact-checkers worked tirelessly to debunk claims that, in many cases, turned out to be true or at least partially valid over time. But this crusade against disinformation had a devastating cost. Silencing legitimate questions, ridiculing those who expressed reasonable doubts, and demonizing skeptics not only fueled even greater distrust toward institutions, but created a vacuum where truth struggled to survive. The official narrative, far from unifying society in a moment of crisis, sowed seeds of profound division, leaving many wondering: why so much effort to control what we can think, doubt, or investigate?

The Key Question: Who Generates the Disinformation?

If disinformation is the poison that has fractured our society, tearing apart bonds of trust and community, then we must dare to ask: who holds the vial that contains it? The official narrative conditioned us to point to the margins—the

anonymous bloggers, the rebellious tweeters, the "madmen" with their eccentric theories—as the main culprits of informational chaos. But what if the true origin of disinformation does not lie in the peripheries of society, but in the very heart of the institutions that swore to protect us? And what if the dominant narratives, backed by governments, health agencies, and media conglomerates, were the ones that distorted reality with greater impact and consequences? This is the question that guides every page of this book: are we certain of who generates the disinformation, and why is it so difficult for us to look toward the center of power?

This is not a rhetorical question nor an exercise in provocation. Declassified documents, official reports, and independent investigations have begun to reveal an uncomfortable truth: many of the claims labeled as "conspiracies" during the pandemic had legitimate foundations, while the official narratives often hid contradictions, deliberate omissions, and, in some cases, outright falsehoods. From the origins of the virus, initially dismissed as a laboratory escape until reports like that of the United States Congress in 2024 pointed to its plausibility, to the side effects of vaccines, minimized despite thousands of reports in databases like VAERS and EUDRAVigilance, the evidence suggests that institutions did not always act as guardians of truth, but, on occasion, as its gravediggers. This book does not seek to demonize anyone nor fuel a narrative of victims and villains; its purpose is to demand clear and transparent answers. If disinformation is a crime against society, who are the true culprits, and why have we allowed the accusing finger to always point downward?

The Approach of the Book: A Journey Based on Evidence

Disinformation is not a manifesto driven by subjective opinions nor a cry of indignation devoid of substance. It is a meticulous investigation, a rigorous journey through facts, verified publications, and data that have emerged after years of silence, censorship, and opacity. This book is grounded in concrete evidence: official reports from institutions like the CDC and the WHO, declassified documents that reveal decisions made behind closed doors, peer-reviewed scientific studies, and testimonies from experts who were ignored, ridiculed, or marginalized during the pandemic. Each chapter is built on solid foundations, from reports of excess mortality in different countries to revelations from parliamentary commissions, such as the United States Congress report of December 2024, which exposed serious institutional failures in the management of the health crisis. There is no room for unfounded speculations; every assertion is backed by sources that withstand the most demanding scrutiny.

The purpose of this book is clear and ambitious: to dismantle the dominant narratives that have shaped our understanding of the pandemic and other recent social crises, and to reveal who benefited from controlling the story in their own interest. Through chapters that address crucial themes—from the origins of COVID-19 and the side effects of vaccines to the social and economic costs of pandemic policies—*Disinformation* offers a critical analysis of how truth was

sacrificed on the altar of political, corporate, and ideological convenience. We do not pretend to offer an absolute truth, for no one can claim such a thing with honesty; our goal is to empower the reader with the necessary tools to question, investigate, and demand transparency in a world where opacity has become the norm. This book is an invitation to think for ourselves, to not accept prefabricated answers, and to reclaim our right to know.

This journey is not solely academic; it is profoundly human. Each datum, each report, each number cited in these pages represents affected lives: families who lost loved ones in circumstances shrouded in doubts, children whose dreams were truncated by years of closed schools, small business owners whose enterprises collapsed under the weight of arbitrary policies. By basing ourselves on verified evidence, we honor those whose stories were silenced, those who saw their doubts dismissed as heresies, those who fought for truth amid censorship. *Disinformation* is a testimony that truth, although uncomfortable and difficult to attain, is the only path toward reconciliation, justice, and the reconstruction of a fractured society.

Personal Reflection: A Path of Questioning

As the author, my motivation for writing *Disinformation* does not arise from a fleeting impulse nor a desire for controversy. It is the result of a trajectory that has defined my work through three previous books, each dedicated to unraveling the dynamics of power that operate behind the curtains of official stories. My earlier books explored how the media shape our perceptions to serve political agendas, manipulating emotions and collective priorities; analyzed the devastating impact of censorship on freedom of thought, showing how forced silence stifles ideas that could transform the world; unearthed the consequences of economic policies designed to benefit a few at the expense of the majorities, leaving behind a trail of inequality and despair. *Disinformation* is the culmination of this journey, an effort to apply the same incisive questions to the most defining crisis of our time: the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

My interest in this topic began with the contradictions I observed from the first days of the pandemic, in the spring of 2020. While headlines proclaimed the infallibility of health measures—mandatory masks, total lockdowns, vaccines as the definitive solution—I noticed that the evidence did not always back the official claims with the clarity we were required to accept. Why was the laboratory escape hypothesis dismissed outright as an absurd conspiracy, when later documents, like those from the United States Congress in 2024, would indicate it was a plausible possibility? Why were reports of adverse vaccine effects minimized or silenced, when databases like VAERS in the United States and EUDRAVigilance in Europe accumulated thousands of cases deserving investigation? Why were those who inquired about the role of natural immunity ridiculed, when later studies, such as those published in *The Lancet* in 2023, would confirm its efficacy in many cases? These questions were not outlandish theories; they were visible

cracks in an official narrative that seemed more interested in control than in transparency.

As a writer, my role is not to dictate truths nor impose certainties, but to illuminate the shadows where truth has been hidden, distorted, or buried. My previous books have taught me that dominant narratives, with their appearance of infallibility, often serve hidden interests, whether political, corporate, or ideological. During the pandemic, I observed with growing unease how the institutions that should have protected society—governments, health agencies, media conglomerates—chose to prioritize narrative control over honesty. I saw how "free thinkers," from renowned scientists to ordinary citizens who dared to doubt, were attacked, censored, and marginalized for questioning the unquestionable. This book is my response to that injustice, an attempt to give voice to the silenced, to honor those who sought truth amid hostility, and to demand accountability from those who preferred the comfort of a convenient lie over the courage of transparency.

I do not write from the arrogance of one who believes he knows everything, but from the humility of one who recognizes that truth is an arduous path, full of nuances and contradictions. My personal experience, as someone who has navigated the complexities of official stories for years, has convinced me that questioning is not a senseless act of rebellion, but a civic and moral responsibility. In a world where disinformation does not only emanate from the margins, but from the pulpits of power, our duty as citizens is to ask tirelessly: who controls the narrative, and for what purpose? *Disinformation* is my contribution to that tireless search, an effort to honor the victims of lies and omissions, to give voice to those who were silenced, and to build a future where truth is not a luxury reserved for a few, but an inalienable right of all.

Part I: Health and Pandemic

Chapter 1: The Origin of COVID-19: Market or Laboratory?

Official Narrative

When COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO), backed by governments and global media, presented a clear and seemingly unquestionable explanation: the virus had a zoonotic origin, likely transmitted from bats or pangolins in the bustling Huanan wet market, at the heart of the city. This narrative, amplified by sensationalist headlines and reiterated with fervor by health authorities, resonated with a logic that seemed accessible to the average citizen. After all, historical pandemics, such as influenza or SARS, have often arisen from human-animal interactions in natural environments, have they not? The idea of a virus escaping from a laboratory, with its echoes of scientific intrigue and dark conspiracies, sounded like a plot lifted from a science fiction novel, too implausible to be taken seriously. Any suggestion in that direction was swiftly labeled as a “conspiracy theory,” dismissed with disdain by experts who appeared to speak from unassailable authority.

In this context, digital platforms such as Twitter—before its change of ownership in 2022—and Facebook acted as relentless guardians of the official narrative, censoring posts that hinted at a possible laboratory origin and suspending accounts that dared to question the dominant story. The media, from major news channels to the most prestigious newspapers, branded these ideas as irresponsible disinformation, accusing them of sowing panic and undermining trust in science. For the public, overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty amid a pandemic that paralyzed the world, trusting the wet market narrative seemed the most sensible option, a comforting truth that offered a simple explanation in the midst of chaos. But was this narrative as solid as we were led to believe, or was it designed to divert attention from more unsettling questions?

Evidence

As the years have passed and the shadows of the pandemic have partially dissipated, data, revelations, and testimonies have begun to tell a very different story, one that challenges the official narrative and raises profound questions about the transparency of the institutions that swore to protect us. From declassified intelligence reports to leaked emails and expert testimonies, the accumulated evidence suggests that the laboratory leak hypothesis is not only plausible but has gained significant support, transforming from a marginalized idea into a possibility that demands serious investigation.

- **Intelligence Agency Reports**

In February 2023, the United States Department of Energy concluded, with "low confidence," that COVID-19 likely originated from an accidental leak at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, according to classified reports cited by *The Wall Street Journal*, February 26, 2023, *Lab Leak Most Likely Origin of Covid-19 Pandemic, Energy Department Now Says*. This finding marked a turning point, as it contradicted the initial stance of many agencies. More recently, in January 2025, the CIA revised its assessment and now considers a laboratory origin more likely, though lacking definitive proof, as reported by *Reuters*, January 27, 2025, *CIA says COVID-19 more likely to have come from lab than nature*. The *BBC*, March 13, 2025, *German spy agency 'believed Covid likely started in lab*, confirmed this shift, noting that an agency that initially dismissed the laboratory hypothesis now views it as a serious possibility. This change in the official assessment reflects an erosion of the zoonotic narrative and a belated acknowledgment that questions about the laboratory deserve answers.

- **Documents and Leaked Emails**

On September 9, 2021, an investigation published by *The Intercept*, *NIH Documents Provide New Evidence U.S. Funded Gain-of-Function Research in Wuhan*, revealed that 15 U.S. government agencies were aware since 2018 that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was conducting experiments with SARS coronaviruses, partially funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through EcoHealth Alliance, led by Peter Daszak. Leaked emails from Anthony Fauci, obtained through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, revealed internal discussions among high-level scientists about gain-of-function research in Wuhan, a process that involves modifying viruses to make them more infectious or lethal to study their behavior. These emails, reported by *The Intercept*, September 6, 2021, *New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab* (More than 900 pages of materials related to U.S.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by *The Intercept*), and by *The New York Post*, March 5, 2023, *New emails show Dr. Anthony Fauci commissioned scientific paper in Feb. 2020 to disprove Wuhan lab leak theory,* suggest that Fauci and others were aware of the risks of such research, raising questions about why the laboratory hypothesis was downplayed.

- **Expert Testimonies**

In March 2023, Robert Redfield, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), testified before the United States Congress, stating that COVID-19 could have originated in a laboratory through genetic manipulation, and that the natural hypothesis was "biologically improbable," as reported by various media and again in December 2024 by *Newsweek*, December 28, 2024, *Ex-CDC Director Says 'Possible' US Created Viruses in China,* following a new media intervention by Redfield.

In May 2023, during a European Parliament summit, patent expert David Martin presented evidence that multiple patents related to SARS-CoV-2 had been registered years before the pandemic, suggesting, according to him, a possible intentional development of the virus, which provoked the expected backlash from fact-checking agencies, an echo of Chapter 10.

- **Scientific Contradictions**

Prominent virologists initially expressed concerns about a possible laboratory leak, but later were among the signatories of a letter published in *The Lancet*, March 7, 2020, *Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19*, which dismissed the laboratory hypothesis as a "conspiracy theory." This contradiction has been highlighted by multiple media and analysts, particularly due to conflicts of interest among several signatories linked to EcoHealth Alliance, as noted in Wikipedia, *Lancet statement on COVID-19 conspiracy theory*.

- **Obstacles in Investigation**

An article in *The Telegraph*, December 2024, *FBI 'found evidence Covid was lab leak but was not allowed to brief president'*, revealed that the FBI, which maintained "moderate confidence" in the laboratory leak hypothesis, was prevented from briefing President Biden in 2021, according to FBI forensic scientist Jason Bannan. This obstruction points to a possible deliberate suppression of information that could have altered the course of public debate. Additionally, the WHO, which sent a team to Wuhan in 2021, faced significant restrictions from Chinese authorities, including refusal to share raw data on early cases, limiting the ability to investigate the virus's origin, as reported by *BBC*, January 14, 2021, *Covid: WHO team probing origin of virus arrives in China*.

- **Lack of Zoonotic Evidence**

The WHO, which initially strongly supported the zoonotic origin, admitted in July 2022 that there was no conclusive evidence of an intermediate animal host—such as pangolins or civets—that transmitted the virus to humans. Studies like one published in *Science*, July 26, 2022, *The Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan was the early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic*, while supporting the animal host hypothesis, failed to identify a specific animal in the Huanan market as the source of SARS-CoV-2, further weakening the official narrative and leaving room for the laboratory hypothesis.

Analysis

The official narrative of the zoonotic origin was presented to the world as an unquestionable truth, a story that offered certainty in a moment of global panic. However, the accumulated evidence—from declassified intelligence reports to flagrant scientific contradictions—has reopened the debate about a possible laboratory leak, transforming it from a marginalized theory into a hypothesis that cannot be dismissed. Although there is no definitive proof that SARS-CoV-2 was

an intentionally designed biological weapon, the possibility of an accidental leak in a laboratory with questionable safety measures, such as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is increasingly credible. This institute, known for conducting gain-of-function experiments that modified viruses to study their pandemic potential, was partially funded by U.S. institutions through EcoHealth Alliance, raising significant conflicts of interest in the management and dissemination of information.

The journal *Nature* published a study in 2015 titled *"A SARS-like cluster of circulating bat coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence*," which detailed the creation of a new SARS coronavirus to anticipate a possible natural mutation of SARS-CoV-1 and study its aggressiveness, as well as neutralization assays. The study involved collaboration between several U.S. universities and the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Why, then, was discussion of the laboratory origin so aggressively censored during the early years of the pandemic? Between 2020 and 2021, platforms like Twitter and Facebook systematically removed posts suggesting this hypothesis, while the media branded them as dangerous disinformation that threatened global unity against the virus. The Twitter Files, published between 2022 and 2023 after the platform's acquisition by Elon Musk, revealed internal communications between Twitter executives, government agencies, and pharmaceutical companies actively requesting the moderation of COVID-19-related content, including claims that later proved true, as reported by *The Intercept*, January 16, 2023, *Covid-19 Drugmakers Pressured Twitter to Censor Activists Pushing for Generic Vaccine*. This censorship, combined with pressure on scientists to dismiss the laboratory theory, suggests a coordinated effort not to protect the truth, but to safeguard political and financial interests, such as the funding of risky research and the reputation of implicated institutions.

The CIA's shift in stance in 2025, along with the FBI's revelations about internal obstacles to briefing the presidency in 2021, reinforces the perception that the zoonotic narrative was a convenient but not necessarily truthful explanation. The lack of transparency, from Anthony Fauci's leaked emails to the WHO's initial silence on the absence of an intermediate animal host, has fueled a public distrust that is not irrational but a logical response to institutional opacity. This does not mean that the zoonotic hypothesis is impossible; however, the available data demand a more honest, open, and agenda-free analysis, one that places the search for truth above the interests of power. The censorship of the laboratory hypothesis, far from protecting society, has deepened the fractures of trust, leaving many wondering: if institutions hid this, what else have they denied us?

The history of the origin of COVID-19 is also a history of power and narrative control. The pressure to align scientists, media, and digital platforms with the zoonotic narrative reflects a pattern that we will see repeated in other chapters of this book, from the management of vaccines (Chapters 3 and 4) to the censorship of dissenting voices (Chapter 10). The question is not only whether the virus came from a market or a laboratory, but why we were prevented from debating it freely. The answer to this question reveals an uncomfortable truth: disinformation

does not always come from the margins, but sometimes from the very heart of the institutions that claim to protect us.

Story of a Citizen: María's Doubt

Imagine María, a 35-year-old nurse in Madrid, in the summer of 2020. Exhausted after endless shifts in the ICU, she hears on the radio that COVID-19 came from a wet market in Wuhan. But something does not add up. During a break, she browses X and finds a post by @TomCottonAR suggesting a laboratory in Wuhan as a possible origin, citing intelligence reports. "What if they're lying to us?" she wonders. María is not a conspiracy theorist; she is curious. She shares the post in a group of colleagues, but they call her "paranoid." She does not give up. Later, she reads articles from *The Daily Mail*, the *BBC*, *The Intercept*, and investigates forums. In 2023, when Fauci's emails confirm risks in Wuhan, María organizes talks at her hospital, connecting with activists: "We don't want to point fingers; we want to know," she says. Her doubt, sparked in 2020, becomes a beacon, an echo of the millions seeking truth, as we will see in the chapters that follow.

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine an average citizen, sitting in front of the television in the spring of 2020, with the world halted by a pandemic no one expected. He listens attentively as news anchors, with grave faces, explain that the virus came from a bat sold in a Wuhan wet market. The explanation offers him an anchor, a fragile but comforting certainty amid the chaos paralyzing cities and filling hospitals. Now, years later, that same citizen discovers declassified intelligence reports, leaked emails from prominent scientists, and testimonies pointing to a laboratory in the same city. The certainty fades, replaced by a mix of confusion, betrayal, and a spark of curiosity. What does he feel? Uncertainty is uncomfortable, like a cold wind slipping through the cracks of a house he thought was secure. But it is also liberating, because it reminds him that truth is not a gift delivered wrapped in shiny paper by headlines; it is an arduous path we walk with questions, courage, and an unwavering will to know.

As the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Truth*: "Truth is not a trophy to be displayed; it is the authority that gives us the courage to challenge the powerful." In a world where official narratives can be tools of control, shaped to protect interests rather than illuminate realities, questioning them is not just a right, but a moral responsibility. The story of the origin of COVID-19 teaches us that accepting an explanation without scrutiny is to surrender our power, our capacity to think and decide for ourselves. Are we willing to pay the price of truth, even if it means challenging what we have been told, bearing the weight of doubt, and facing the discomfort of not having all the answers? The answer to this question will not only determine how we understand the past, but how we will

build a future where truth is a beacon, not a shadow manipulated by those who hold power.

This dance of concealment, where the laboratory hypothesis was buried under the weight of the official narrative, is not an isolated event. As we will see in Chapter 5, the United States Congress report of 2024 reveals how institutions, from Fauci to the NIH, wove a web of opacity to protect their interests, sacrificing the truth about the virus's origin on the altar of power.

Chapter 2: Truth Under Pressure

Official Narrative

When COVID-19 erupted as a global threat in the early months of 2020, health authorities, backed by an unprecedented media machinery, constructed a monolithic narrative that seemed carved in stone: science, embodied in institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and national health ministries, held all the answers needed to save humanity. Masks, strict lockdowns, and, later, vaccines developed at breakneck speed were presented as unquestionable solutions, pillars of a global strategy that promised a return to normality. We were urged to accept these measures as an act of collective responsibility, a moral duty toward our neighbors and loved ones. Any deviation from the official guidelines—whether doubting the efficacy of masks, exploring alternative treatments like hydroxychloroquine, or questioning lockdowns—was labeled as a danger to society, an act of selfishness that endangered lives.

The media, from major television channels to digital news portals, amplified this message with an almost religious urgency, transforming trust in institutions into a sacred dogma. Legitimate debates about alternative treatments, such as ivermectin, or about the psychological and economic impacts of restrictions were swiftly categorized as disinformation, and those who raised them were caricatured as deniers, anti-vaxxers, or irrational conspiracy theorists. This narrative, resonating in alarmist headlines and government campaigns, turned questioning into an act of heresy, a challenge not only to science but to social cohesion itself. However, as evidence emerges and the veils of censorship are lifted, it becomes clear that this narrative not only silenced necessary debates but concealed contradictions, errors, and decisions that cost countless lives, leaving society trapped in a devastating cycle of polarization, distrust, and fracture.

Evidence

The COVID-19 pandemic was not merely a health crisis; it was also a massive experiment in informational control that eroded public trust to historic lows. Through systematic censorship, data manipulation, and the stigmatization of dissenting voices, authorities prioritized preserving a unified narrative over the pursuit of truth, especially in the early months before vaccines became the central focus of the global response. The evidence, from official reports to retracted studies, declassified documents, and testimonies of victims, reveals a disturbing panorama of how legitimate debates were silenced and failures with devastating consequences for millions were concealed.

- **Censorship and Polarization**

The censorship during the pandemic reached unprecedented levels, stifling essential discussions about treatments, public policies, and the human costs of

restrictions. A study published in *Frontiers in Political Science*, March 4, 2021, *Political Polarization During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, found that affective polarization in the United States and Europe intensified dramatically during the pandemic, with opposing stances on masks and vaccines dividing families, communities, and entire nations. In the United States, the "Twitter Files" (2022–2023), revealed after the platform's acquisition by Elon Musk, exposed communications between social media executives, government agencies, and pharmaceutical companies requesting the censorship of content related to vaccine side effects and alternative treatments, even when these claims were truthful or deserved debate. In Spain, a report by Amnesty International, October 2021, "*Silenciamiento y desinformación, la libertad de expresión en peligro durante la pandemia de COVID-19*" (Silencing and disinformation, freedom of expression at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic), denounced that authorities minimized deaths in nursing homes, silencing families demanding answers about the abandonment of their loved ones. This censorship created digital and social "echo chambers," as documented in a study in *PNAS Nexus*, February 2021, *The echo chamber effect on social media*, which reinforced polarized narratives and hindered any possibility of constructive dialogue.

- **Contradictions in Treatments and Policies**

Before the arrival of vaccines, treatment and prevention policies were marked by inconsistencies that generated confusion and distrust. In Spain, the Ministry of Health declared in March 2020 that masks were unnecessary for the general population, only to reverse this stance in May, when they became mandatory in public spaces, without offering a clear explanation to justify the change, as reported by *El País*, May 20, 2020, *La mascarilla será obligatoria desde este jueves en espacios públicos si no se puede garantizar la distancia* (Masks will be mandatory from this Thursday in public spaces if distance cannot be guaranteed). This flip-flopping fueled the perception that policies responded more to panic or political pressures than to a solid scientific basis. In the realm of treatments, hydroxychloroquine was initially promoted as a promising option in several countries, but a study published in *The Lancet*, May 22, 2020, *Hydroxychloroquine and Mortality in COVID-19*, claimed it significantly increased mortality. This study, based on data from the company Surgisphere, was retracted after it was discovered that the data were falsified, evidencing deliberate manipulation to discredit alternative treatments and protect corporate interests, as noted in *The Lancet*, July 2020, *RETRACTED: Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine with or without a macrolide for treatment of COVID-19: a multinational registry analysis.* The retraction, though significant, could not reverse the damage to the credibility of official science.

- **Abandonment in Nursing Homes and Use of Midazolam**

One of the darkest chapters of the pandemic was the management of nursing homes, where the vulnerability of the elderly turned into tragedy. In Spain, Amnesty International published a study on December 3, 2020, titled "*Abandonadas a su suerte: La desprotección y discriminación de las personas*

mayores en residencias durante la pandemia COVID-19 en España" (Abandoned to their fate: The neglect and discrimination of the elderly in nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic in Spain), which reported that thousands of elderly people died in nursing homes without access to hospital care, due to lack of access to health services, discriminatory protocols, and human rights violations.

In the United Kingdom, public information requests raised concerns about the use in nursing homes during 2020 of potentially excessive doses of midazolam (a respiratory sedative that, in high doses, can be lethal), though claims of intentional use to cause deaths were debunked by *Full Fact*, December 1, 2022, *No evidence midazolam used to kill thousands of patients in April 2020*. In the United States, the directive of former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in March 2020 ordered the transfer of COVID-19 patients to nursing homes, resulting in thousands of avoidable deaths, as documented in a United States Congress report, *After Action Review*, December 2024, pp. 221–230, which we will examine in detail in Chapter 5.

Legal proceedings in Spain, such as those initiated in Madrid in 2021, and in New York, have sought to clarify these tragedies, but institutional opacity persists, leaving families without answers.

- **Errors in the Use of PCR and Death Counts**

PCR tests, though valuable for detecting the virus, were not designed as the sole diagnostic tool. An analysis in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 2021, *Diagnostic performance of different sampling approaches for SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR testing: a systematic review and meta-analysis*, highlighted several limitations of PCR tests for detecting SARS-CoV-2. The analysis found that throat swabs had significantly lower sensitivity and positive predictive value (PPV) compared to nasopharyngeal swabs. Specifically, throat swabs showed a sensitivity of 68% and a PPV of 75%. Ultimately, the review concluded that throat swabs should not be recommended for the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2.

On the other hand, positive PCR results did not always indicate an active infection, and their indiscriminate use inflated COVID-19 mortality figures. In the United States, a CDC report in 2020, "*COVID-19 Death Data and Resources*," admitted that any death with a positive PCR test was classified as "due to COVID," even if the primary cause was another. The publication noted that COVID-19 should not be recorded on the death certificate if it did not cause or contribute to the death, a practice that, in our view, was incentivized by additional financial reimbursements to hospitals. In Spain, some studies estimated that up to 30% of deaths attributed to COVID may have been misclassified. In the United Kingdom, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published in 2022, *Deaths due to COVID-19, registered in England and Wales: 2021*, showing that approximately 13% of all deaths involving COVID-19 did not have the virus as the primary cause: many deaths were recorded as related to COVID-19 because it was present on the certificate, though the primary cause was another (such as diabetes, dementia, heart disease, etc.). The UK ONS clearly separated both

groups in its methodology, precisely to avoid confusion about the real impact of the virus on mortality.

• Suppression of Alternative Treatments

Disinformation was not only manifested in censorship but also in the active suppression of alternative treatments to justify the emergency authorization of vaccines. An article in *The BMJ*, 2022, *Unethical studies of ivermectin for covid-19,* documented how studies on ivermectin were systematically dismissed, despite initial evidence of efficacy in certain contexts. Meta-analyses suggesting significant benefits of ivermectin were retracted, and, on the other hand, high-risk studies with this substance were conducted, plagued with errors.

The FDA and the media labeled ivermectin as a "horse drug," ignoring its approved human use for decades, according to the United States Congress report, *After Action Review*, December 2024, p. 300, which we will examine in Chapter 5. This narrative discouraged independent research and reinforced vaccines as the only viable solution, depriving doctors and patients of potentially beneficial options.

• Globalized Social Control with Questionable Scientific Backing

Pandemic policies, from prolonged lockdowns to universal mask mandates, showed a global uniformity that raised suspicions about their scientific foundation. Moreover, lockdown policies disproportionately harmed certain groups. In the case of people with obesity, especially those already receiving treatment, they experienced a significant deterioration in their mental health and health-related behaviors, as shown by an analysis in *The Lancet*, April 2021, *Negative impact of the first COVID-19 lockdown upon health-related behaviours and psychological wellbeing in people living with severe and complex obesity in the UK*.

Other studies indicated that lockdowns lacked solid evidence to justify their social, economic, and psychological costs, which included increased poverty, depression, and educational delays. In countries like Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom, guidelines on social distancing and masks were implemented with a uniformity that ignored epidemiological and cultural differences, fueling theories about centralized control, though without conclusive evidence. According to *Nature*, March 2021, *A global panel database of pandemic policies (Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker)*, it was observed that many countries adopted lockdowns even before recording 10 deaths, indicating that the decision to lock down was based more on global uniformity than on the local progression of the pandemic.

The WHO, which promoted these measures globally, admitted in 2023 that some guidelines, such as school closures, caused more harm than good, causing significant negative impacts, according to WHO, March 15, 2023, *School closures and adolescent experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic*, concluding that in future health emergencies, alternative measures should be considered before implementing school closures to avoid increased educational pressure.

Analysis

The official narrative that disinformation came exclusively from the margins—anonymous bloggers, rebellious tweeters, or eccentric "conspiracy theorists"—conceals a far more disturbing truth: health institutions, governments, and the media were, in many cases, the primary generators of confusion and distrust. The censorship of legitimate debates, such as those concerning hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin, not only silenced scientists and doctors seeking solutions but deprived society of options that could have saved lives in the most critical moments of the pandemic. The retraction of the Surgisphere study in *The Lancet*, 2020, *Retraction of Hydroxychloroquine Study*, is an alarming example of how official science could be manipulated to discredit alternative treatments, protecting corporate interests and justifying emergency authorizations for vaccines that were not exempt from controversies, as we will see in Chapter 4.

The abandonment of the elderly in nursing homes, particularly in Spain and New York, reflects a failure not only administrative but profoundly moral. In Spain, the use of midazolam in nursing homes, though not proven as an intentional act of euthanasia, raised legitimate suspicions due to the lack of transparency regarding protocols and administered doses. Legal proceedings opened in Madrid in 2021 still seek answers for families who lost loved ones in conditions of abandonment, though the Chief Prosecutor exculpated the Madrid Community for the deaths of the elderly in nursing homes due to COVID, according to *El Mundo*, December 2021.

In New York, the United States Congress report of 2024 pointed directly to the responsibility of Andrew Cuomo's directive, which sent COVID-19 patients to nursing homes, causing thousands of avoidable deaths, a fact that his administration attempted to cover up, according to *After Action Review*, December 2024, pp. 237–253, which we will examine in Chapter 5. These tragedies were not isolated errors but the result of policies that prioritized the narrative of control over the protection of the most vulnerable, a theme that will resonate in Chapter 6 on the social costs of the pandemic.

The misuse of PCR tests and the inflation of COVID-19 mortality figures distorted the public's perception of the pandemic, fueling a fear that justified draconian measures. By classifying any death with a positive PCR test as "due to COVID," even in cases of pre-existing conditions, governments and hospitals—partly motivated by financial incentives—created an exaggerated image of the virus's lethality. This not only intensified collective panic but legitimized restrictions like prolonged lockdowns, whose social and economic costs far outweighed their benefits in many contexts.

The uniformity of global policies—mandatory masks, strict lockdowns, dismissal of alternative treatments—suggests a coordination that transcends national borders and epidemiological differences. While there is no conclusive evidence of a central "master" dictating these guidelines, the similarity in responses from countries as diverse as Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom raises legitimate questions about who set the priorities. As the Old

Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*: “If all countries sing the same song, who wrote the score, and why does it sound so perfectly tuned?” This question, though speculative, captures the perception that decisions did not always respond to science but to political, corporate, or even ideological agendas seeking to shape social behavior.

This does not mean that all pandemic measures were useless or malicious. The initial efforts to contain the virus, such as travel restrictions in the early months of 2020, saved lives, according to the United States Congress report of December 2024, *After Action Review*, p. 283. However, disinformation arises as much from exaggerating the benefits of a measure as from concealing its human and social costs. The censorship, polarization, and data manipulation not only divided society but eroded trust in institutions, leaving many wondering if truth was a luxury reserved for those who hold power, a theme we will explore in greater depth in Chapter 10 on censorship and narrative control.

Story of a Citizen: Pablo’s Silence

Imagine Pablo, a 42-year-old journalist in Buenos Aires, in 2021. He writes about the polarization dividing his country: vaccinated versus unvaccinated, believers versus skeptics. When he publishes an article questioning vaccine mandates, his editor censors it, and his friends accuse him of being a “traitor.” Pablo finds a post on X about the “Twitter Files” and the censorship of dissenters. “If they silence the truth, what’s left for us?” he thinks. He investigates, connects with groups in Spain and the United States, and launches an independent blog. In 2025, his articles inspire citizen forums. “We’re not looking to fight; we’re looking to understand,” Pablo says. “The Old Cuckoo was right,” he quotes: “The truth doesn’t shout; it whispers to those who dare to listen.”

Philosophical Reflection

Picture the Old Cuckoo, sitting in the dim light of his study, facing a computer that illuminates his face with the glow of contradictory headlines and official documents that fail to explain the deaths in nursing homes, the retractions of studies, or the silence enveloping families seeking justice. His neighbors call him crazy; his friends have stopped speaking to him, but the evidence—from Amnesty International’s reports to the legal proceedings in various cities—does not lie. Every elderly person abandoned in a nursing home, every treatment dismissed without fair investigation, every death misclassified by a PCR test deserves more than institutional silence. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*, “is the authority that gives us the courage to challenge those who silence.”

This chapter poses a question to the reader, one that resonates at the heart of *Disinformation*: what does it mean to seek the truth in a world where clashing narratives turn citizens into enemies and questions into betrayals? When institutions censor, the media polarize, and data are manipulated to serve hidden

agendas, how do we find a path to clarity? The answer is not simple, but it demands an unwavering commitment to critical skepticism, verified evidence, and open dialogue, even when it is uncomfortable or painful. As citizens, our power lies in the questions we dare to ask, in our willingness to look beyond headlines and official guidelines, in our determination to honor those who suffered under the weight of disinformation. Seeking the truth is not only an act of courage; it is an act of love toward a society that deserves to heal, united by transparency and justice, not divided by fear and silence.

The polarization that fractured families and communities, fueled by censorship and ridicule, is only the beginning of a larger game. In Chapter 12, we will explore how voices like that of Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. (RFK Jr.), Secretary of Health in the current U.S. government, were silenced to maintain an untouchable health narrative, an echo of the tactics that turned doubt into heresy during the pandemic.

Chapter 3: Vaccines: Promises and Realities

Official Narrative

In the grim landscape of 2020, when the world was paralyzed by the fear and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines developed by Pfizer, Moderna, and other pharmaceutical companies emerged as a beacon of hope, a bright light at the end of a dark tunnel. Initial clinical trials, announced with fanfare in 2020, proclaimed a 95% efficacy against symptomatic infection, an achievement that seemed almost miraculous in a moment of collective desperation. Global media, backed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and governments worldwide, amplified this message with unwavering conviction: these vaccines would not only protect individuals from severe disease but would halt the virus's transmission, paving the way to a normality that everyone yearned for. Mass vaccination became a symbol of collective solidarity, almost a moral imperative, presented as the ultimate act of responsibility toward the community.

For the average citizen, overwhelmed by alarming headlines and restrictions that transformed daily life, getting vaccinated was synonymous with tangible hope, a concrete step toward leaving behind endless lockdowns, masks that fogged glasses, and the constant fear of an invisible virus. The media, from major news channels to social networks, repeated a unified message, almost like a mantra: the vaccines were safe, effective, and the definitive solution to end the pandemic. Governments implemented massive campaigns, with emotive slogans and promises of freedom, while public figures rolled up their sleeves before cameras to bolster confidence. However, behind this optimistic, carefully orchestrated narrative, a more complex reality lay hidden, marked by inflated expectations, withheld information, and uncomfortable truths that, over time, began to erode public faith.

Evidence

As the years have passed and data have emerged from the shadows of initial censorship, the narrative of vaccines as an infallible solution has been challenged by a nuanced reality, full of contradictions and omissions. The evidence, drawn from clinical trials, official reports, independent studies, and declassified documents, paints a picture that questions the initial promises and calls into doubt the transparency of health authorities and pharmaceutical companies. Below are the findings that reveal this complexity.

- **Real vs. Promised Efficacy**

The initial clinical trials by Pfizer and Moderna, published in *New England Journal of Medicine*, December 10, 2020, "Safety and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine," reported a relative efficacy of 95% against symptomatic infection, a result that generated triumphant headlines worldwide.

However, this figure was obtained under controlled conditions, focusing primarily on preventing mild to moderate symptoms and without directly assessing the virus's transmission. Moreover, relative efficacy was frequently misinterpreted in the media as absolute efficacy, leading many to mistakenly believe that, of every 100 vaccinated individuals, 95 would be completely immune to the virus, when in reality, relative efficacy measures the proportional reduction in the risk of symptomatic infection in the vaccinated group compared to the unvaccinated group, without guaranteeing total immunity or addressing factors such as the duration of protection or efficacy against emerging variants.

In 2023, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) admitted that the vaccines were not primarily designed to stop transmission but to protect individuals from severe disease, contradicting initial media and authority messages that promoted vaccination as a barrier against the spread. On October 31, 2022, *Times Now World News*, in an article titled "*Preventing transmission never required for jab's initial approval*," revealed that a Pfizer executive stated before the European Parliament that at the start of the vaccine's global rollout, it was not known whether it prevented transmission, as the priority was to move quickly given the pandemic's urgency. Preventing transmission was not a requirement for the vaccine's initial approval. The primary focus was demonstrating that the vaccine could reduce severe effects of the virus. In other words, although Pfizer and other manufacturers never officially claimed that their vaccines prevented transmission before approval, some media, political leaders, and health authorities implied or enthusiastically stated that vaccination protected others, not just the vaccinated individual, fostering distrust, especially among authorities who chose not to communicate this limitation to the public.

The Epoch Times published an article on November 14, 2023, titled "*CDC Claims on Vaccination and Natural Immunity Made Without Seeing Underlying Data: FOIA Document*," stating that the CDC recommended vaccination for individuals who had already had COVID-19, despite their experts lacking access to the raw data supporting this recommendation. The article notes that the claim that unvaccinated individuals with prior infection were five times more likely to be reinfected was based on a study sponsored by several pharmaceutical companies, and this information was neither reviewed nor audited and later became unavailable. Congressman Thomas Massie had questioned the study for conflicts of interest and lack of foundation. These concerns have now been confirmed. In 2021, when these gaps were pointed out, platforms like Twitter flagged this topic as "disinformation." The article suggests that the CDC overlooked centuries of knowledge about natural immunity.

A study in *The Lancet*, February 26, 2022, "*Waning effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines*," confirmed that vaccine efficacy dropped below 50% against variants like Delta and Omicron after six months, a decline not anticipated in the initial promises. Moreover, protection against infection decreased drastically within a few months. Natural immunity from prior infection showed to be durable, with little loss of effectiveness even after a year.

More recently, a CDC report from February 2024 detailed that the effectiveness of updated COVID-19 vaccines for the 2023–2024 season was 51% (95% CI: 47%–54%) against infections treated in emergency or urgent care services and between 43% and 53% against hospitalizations, according to *CDC MMWR*, February 29, 2024, "*Interim Effectiveness of Updated 2023–2024…"*

- **Confirmed Side Effects**

The scientific journal *Vaccine* published on April 2, 2024, the study "*COVID-19 vaccines and adverse events of special interest: A multinational Global Vaccine Data Network (GVDN) cohort study of 99 million vaccinated individuals.*" This, the largest study to date on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, analyzed data from nearly 100 million vaccinated individuals across eight countries and confirmed the existence of rare but significant side effects, such as myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly after the second dose of the Moderna vaccine. The risk was higher in young men.

The Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AEMPS) reported in 2022 a total of 83,093 notifications of adverse events following the administration of 108.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in Spain. Of these, 13,820 were classified as serious, including severe headaches, urticaria, and, in rare cases, thrombosis, according to *AEMPS*, November 28, 2022, "*18º Informe de Farmacovigilancia sobre Vacunas COVID-19." (18th Pharmacovigilance Report on COVID-19 Vaccines)*

During the pandemic, the AEMPS acknowledged that 14 batches of COVID-19 vaccines were linked to 199 deaths and over 2,300 serious adverse events, according to *The Objective*, March 14, 2023, "*Sanidad admite que 14 lotes de la vacuna de la covid provocaron 200 muertos en España*" (Health authorities admit that 14 batches of the COVID vaccine caused 200 deaths in Spain). However, official data reported a total of 500 deaths across 469 batches, leading the Liberum association to question the transparency of the figures. According to their calculations, the actual number could exceed 6,600 deaths. One of the most concerning batches, EL0725, had a particularly high mortality rate: one death per 5,000 doses administered. Liberum denounced that these figures would have justified the immediate withdrawal of the product in any other context and criticized the lack of action despite the risks. The organization also suggested that institutional silence might be linked to economic interests, noting that regulatory agencies like the EMA receive funding from pharmaceutical companies. Furthermore, the excess mortality recorded in 2022—over 32,000 deaths without a clear explanation—fuels suspicions that serious adverse events may have been underreported or not reported at all.

- **Mortality Data and Transparency**

The Epoch Times published an article on January 11, 2023, titled "*EXCLUSIVE: Senator Questions CDC on Why It Expected Hundreds of Safety Signals for COVID-19 Vaccines*," addressing U.S. Senator Ron Johnson's concerns about the CDC's handling of COVID-19 vaccine safety data. The CDC

claimed there were no “unexpected safety signals” in the vaccines, but documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act revealed hundreds of safety signals, including serious adverse events like blood clots and deaths. Senator Johnson criticized the CDC for not fully and publicly sharing this information, considering it obstructs Congressional oversight. The CDC provided contradictory versions about when they conducted the Proportional Reporting Ratio (PRR) analysis, a tool for detecting vaccine issues. They initially stated they did not perform it, then claimed they did, but later clarified it was only conducted between March and July 2022. Johnson demanded all relevant information from the CDC, but not all requests were fulfilled.

A report from the United Kingdom’s Office for National Statistics (ONS) on August 25, 2023, “*Deaths by vaccination status, England*,” revealed that approximately 92% of COVID-19 deaths in England occurred in individuals who had received three or more vaccine doses. Between April 2021 and December 2022, around 86% to 94% of COVID-19 deaths were among vaccinated individuals, with the vast majority having three or more doses. In other words, 9 out of 10 deceased individuals were triple-vaccinated in the two years prior to the study, though the exact percentage varies by month and age group. These data, while not implying direct causality, challenge the narrative of universal, infallible protection.

A controversial study by Denis Rancourt, Marine Baudin, Joseph Hickey, and Jérémie Mercier, published on September 17, 2023, by *Correlation*, “*COVID-19 vaccine-associated mortality in the Southern Hemisphere,*” later accepted in the *Journal of Research and Applied Medicine*, examined overall mortality in 17 countries in the Southern Hemisphere and equatorial region to assess the impact of COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. The study’s most striking finding is the identification of a cause-and-effect association between peaks in overall mortality and the rapid deployment of vaccination campaigns. According to the authors, these peaks temporally coincided with the most intense phases of the vaccination process, raising questions about the safety and strategy applied in these countries. The researchers concluded that fatal toxicity per dose administered was significantly higher in older individuals. This observation led the team to a direct recommendation: end the policy of prioritizing the elderly in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

Subsequently, Denis G. Rancourt, Joseph Hickey, and Christian Linard published on July 19, 2024, in *Correlation*, “*Spatiotemporal variation of excess all-cause mortality in the world (125 countries) during the Covid period 2020-2023 regarding socio-economic factors and public-health and medical interventions*,” concluding that, using the median vaccine-dose fatality rate (vDFR) across all ages during 2021–2022 for the 78 countries with sufficient data, an estimated projected global excess mortality associated with COVID-19 vaccination programs up to December 30, 2022, was 16.9 million vaccine-associated deaths.

On June 13, 2025, Joseph Hickey, Denis G. Rancourt, and Christian Linard published in *Correlation*, “*Constraints from geotemporal evolution of all-cause*

mortality on the hypothesis of disease spread during Covid," analyzing geotemporal mortality patterns in Europe and the United States during the first wave of the pandemic in 2020. The authors conclude that the observed excess deaths do not follow the typical behavior of a viral pandemic. They note that abrupt regional differences, temporal synchrony, and external factors such as health policies and socioeconomic conditions may have influenced mortality more than viral transmission. Additionally, they suggest that medical interventions and institutional decisions (such as mechanical ventilation, sedatives, and hospitalization decisions) may have significantly contributed to recorded deaths, alongside other social factors like poverty and vulnerability.

Cases like Singapore, where 95% of the population was vaccinated and a record excess mortality was recorded in 2022, highlight these concerns, though Rancourt's conclusions may require further scrutiny due to their correlational nature.

- **Censorship and Suppression of Debates**

The Twitter Files, published between 2022 and 2023 after Twitter's acquisition by Elon Musk, exposed communications between platform executives, U.S. government agencies, and pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer requesting the moderation of content about vaccines, including truthful claims about side effects like myocarditis.

In Spain, doctors who publicly questioned vaccine mandates, such as those denounced by the General Council of Medical Associations in 2021, faced professional sanctions, discouraging others from expressing doubts.

The Epoch Times published an article on October 3, 2023, titled "*CDC Journal and Five Others Rejected Key Paper on COVID Vaccines and Heart Inflammation*," revealing how six medical journals rejected a study questioning the risk-benefit analysis of COVID-19 vaccines in adolescents, previously conducted by the CDC. The study addressed the risks of post-vaccination myocarditis with Pfizer in healthy adolescent males aged 12 to 17. The study was published as a preprint on Medrxiv and later peer-reviewed in the *European Journal of Clinical Investigation* in 2022. Subsequent research in Hong Kong and the United States confirmed that the authors underestimated myocarditis cases, validating their findings. The authors accused the CDC of failing to differentiate between healthy children and those with comorbidities, ignoring more accurate international data, and underestimating the post-vaccine myocarditis rate.

- **Need for Constant Updates**

Vaccines for the 2024–2025 season, targeting variants like KP.2 (Pfizer/Moderna) and JN.1 (Novavax), reflect the rapid decline in protection from prior doses, requiring annual updates similar to those for influenza, according to *Yale Medicine*, October 24, 2024, "*What to Know About the Updated 2024-2025 COVID Vaccines*." This model contrasts with the initial promise of a lasting solution and raises questions about the sustainability of a strategy that relies on repeated doses, especially in populations with limited access to healthcare.

Analysis

The official narrative presented vaccines as an almost miraculous solution, an infallible shield against the pandemic that would restore the world's lost normality. However, the accumulated evidence reveals a story of inflated expectations, deliberate omissions, and a lack of transparency that has eroded public trust. While vaccines achieved a reduction in severe cases and hospitalizations in certain groups, particularly in the months following their rollout, they did not fulfill the key promise of stopping the virus's transmission, a goal that media and authorities promoted without nuance. The CDC's 2024 data fall far short of the 95% efficacy announced in 2020, and the need for annual doses underscores a time-limited protection, a fact that contrasts with the initial narrative of a definitive solution.

Even more concerning is the handling of side effects, which, though statistically rare (between 1 in 1,000 and 1 in 10,000 vaccinated individuals), have had a significant impact on specific populations, such as young men at risk of myocarditis post-vaccination. The confirmation of these risks in studies like the one in *Vaccine* and the identification of safety signals for conditions like ADEM highlight the importance of honest communication, which was absent in the early years of the vaccination campaign. In Spain, the 14,003 serious adverse events reported by the AEMPS and the 200 deaths associated with specific batches, according to Liberum, raise urgent questions about oversight and institutional response, as per *AEMPS*, November 28, 2022, "*18º Informe de Farmacovigilancia sobre Vacunas COVID-19*." (18th Pharmacovigilance Report on COVID-19 Vaccines)

The study by Rancourt et al. (2024), which associates vaccines with 17 million excess mortality deaths globally, is deeply controversial and requires rigorous scrutiny but cannot be dismissed without investigation. The excess mortality data in highly vaccinated countries like Singapore and the UK ONS statistics, which show that 9 out of 10 COVID-19 deaths in 2022 were among triple-vaccinated individuals, suggest that the narrative of universal protection does not reflect reality. The censorship of debates, evidenced in the Twitter Files, indicates a deliberate effort to protect the official narrative rather than foster open dialogue, a practice reminiscent of the suppression of the lab leak hypothesis in Chapter 1 and alternative treatments in Chapter 2.

Why were the vaccines' limitations not communicated from the outset? The pressure to maintain public confidence and justify vaccine mandates, imposed in many countries, may have prevailed over honesty, but at a high cost: the erosion of the credibility of health institutions, a theme that will resonate in Chapter 13 on censorship. The lack of clarity about defective batches in Spain reinforces the perception that transparency was sacrificed in favor of the official narrative.

As we have said, disinformation arises as much from exaggerating benefits as from concealing risks and limitations. By presenting vaccines as infallible,

authorities ignored the complexity of the data, creating a vacuum that alternative narratives filled with skepticism and, in some cases, exaggerated claims. The truth, as always, lies in the nuances that were silenced, a pattern we will see repeated throughout the book.

Story of a Citizen: Ana's Promise

Imagine Ana, a 32-year-old pharmacist in Zaragoza, in the winter of 2021. Her pharmacy buzzes with clients eager for the new vaccine, announced on TVE as the definitive salvation. Ana, in her impeccable white coat, dispenses doses while hearing promises of total immunity. But something unsettles her: a client, an elderly man with tired eyes, returns with a fever after his second dose, and another, a young man, mentions palpitations. Ana reads in *The Lancet* that vaccine efficacy varies and finds posts on X about accelerated trials. "Have they told us the whole truth?" she wonders. She shares her doubts in a colleagues' forum, but they label her "anti-vax"; her boss warns her: "Don't cause panic." Her vaccinated brother accuses her of betraying her profession. Loneliness envelops her, but an article by the Liberum association gives her courage. In 2022, Ana organizes talks in her neighborhood, explaining efficacy data without dogmas. Her pharmacy becomes a space for dialogue, inspiring others to question. Her promise, like a beacon, illuminates the truth, connecting with the resistance we will see later.

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine a family gathered around the table in the winter of 2021, with the television in the background announcing the arrival of vaccines as the world's salvation. They debate whether to get vaccinated, trusting in the promise of a return to gatherings without fear, hugs without masks, a life without restrictions. Years later, they discover that the vaccines did not stop transmission as assured, that the risks, though rare, were real for some, and that the truth offered to them was only part of the story. What remains in their hearts? A mix of disappointment, confusion, and, perhaps, a spark of determination to seek answers beyond the headlines.

The Old Cuckoo, from his desk in some forgotten corner of the world, would write in his blog *The Great Circus of Promises*: "The truth does not need to shout to be heard, but it demands that we open the door to it, even when it is uncomfortable." As humans, we crave certainties that shield us from chaos, but the path to truth passes through questioning, doubting, and demanding that institutions speak with the humility of those who serve, not the arrogance of those who control. Transparency is not an abstract ideal; it is an act of respect toward those who trusted, who rolled up their sleeves with hope, who deserve to know the whole story, not just the part that is convenient to tell.

Can we build a future where health institutions speak with honesty, admitting limits and risks from the outset, so that trust is a solid bridge and not a fracture

that divides us? The answer begins with our willingness to question, to doubt, to tirelessly seek the truth, even when it leads us to uncomfortable terrain. As citizens, our power lies in our ability to look beyond shining promises, to listen to the data that whisper in the margins, to honor those who trusted and suffered due to omissions. The truth, though elusive, is the only path to a society that heals, united by clarity and not fractured by the shadows of disinformation.

The health policies imposed with an iron hand, from masks to lockdowns, reflect a system that fears the truth. In Chapter 11, we will see how institutional corruption, from opaque pharmaceutical contracts to conflicts of interest, shaped these measures to benefit a few while the public paid the price.

Chapter 4: Side Effects: What Was Not Told

Official Narrative

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and other pharmaceutical companies began to roll out in 2020 and 2021, global health authorities, from the World Health Organization (WHO) to national health ministries, constructed a narrative of absolute confidence: these vaccines were safe for the vast majority of the population, a monumental triumph of modern science. The most common side effects, such as arm pain, transient fever, or fatigue, were described as mild and temporary inconveniences, while severe reactions, like anaphylaxis, were labeled “extremely rare,” a risk so infinitesimal it barely warranted concern. The media, from major television channels to digital news portals, reinforced this message with an almost evangelizing urgency, urging the public to trust the rigorous approval processes of regulatory agencies like the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

For the average citizen, overwhelmed by fear of the virus and the restrictions that transformed daily life, getting vaccinated seemed a minimal risk compared to the invisible threat of COVID-19. It was, moreover, an act of social responsibility, a contribution to the common good that would protect both the individual and their community. The narrative was clear, reiterated in headlines, advertising campaigns, and official statements: the vaccines were safe, effective, and the central pillar for defeating the pandemic. Any concerns about adverse effects were swiftly dismissed as dangerous disinformation, an obstacle to public health that needed to be silenced to preserve collective trust. However, behind this façade of certainty, a more unsettling reality began to emerge, marked by risks that were not communicated and truths that were concealed.

Evidence

As data have come to light, often through independent investigations, declassified documents, and courageous testimonies, the official narrative of vaccines as universally safe has been challenged by a complex and disturbing reality. Severe side effects, though statistically rare, have had a devastating impact on thousands or millions of people, and the lack of transparency from health authorities and pharmaceutical companies has fueled a distrust that resonates with the previous chapters of this book. The evidence, from official reports to peer-reviewed studies, reveals that what was not told was as significant as what was communicated to the public.

- **Reported Adverse Events**

The Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AEMPS) reported in 2022 a total of 83,093 notifications of adverse events following the administration of 108.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in Spain. Of these, 13,820 were

classified as serious, including severe headaches, urticaria, and, in rare cases, thrombosis, according to *AEMPS*, November 28, 2022, "*18º Informe de Farmacovigilancia sobre Vacunas COVID-19."* (18th Pharmacovigilance Report on COVID-19 Vaccines). During the pandemic, the AEMPS acknowledged that 14 batches of COVID-19 vaccines were linked to 199 deaths and over 2,300 serious adverse events, according to *The Objective*, March 14, 2023, "*Sanidad admite que 14 lotes de la vacuna de la covid provocaron 200 muertos en España*" (Health authorities admit that 14 batches of the COVID vaccine caused 200 deaths in Spain).

As seen in the previous chapter, a report by the Liberum organization in March 2023 revealed that the Spanish Ministry of Health admitted 200 deaths associated with just 14 vaccine batches, leaving unaddressed the potential impact of the 470 batches distributed in the country, an omission that raised questions about the oversight of distribution. In April 2024, AstraZeneca acknowledged before British courts that its vaccine could cause thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS, a rare condition combining blood clots with low platelet levels), a rare but fatal syndrome, leading to its global withdrawal in June 2024 after years of initial denials. According to *The Telegraph*, April 28, 2024, in the article titled "*AstraZeneca admits its Covid vaccine can cause rare side effect in court documents for first time*," AstraZeneca accepted in a legal document submitted to the High Court in February 2024 that its COVID vaccine "can, in very rare cases, cause TTS."

- **Cardiovascular Effects**

A study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, October 19, 2022, titled "*Myocarditis after BNT162b2 Vaccination in Israeli Adolescents*," based on data from 182,000 adolescents, showed that post-vaccination myocarditis is a rare adverse event occurring primarily in males after the second dose.

An analysis published in *JAMA*, April 20, 2022, "*SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination and Myocarditis in a Nordic Cohort Study of 23 Million Residents*," examined over 23 million people in Nordic countries. The researchers found that mRNA vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 were associated with a slight increase in the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly in young men and after the second dose. Nevertheless, the majority of reported cases evolved favorably, and medical authorities continued to endorse the benefits of vaccination as vastly outweighing the risks

Following the publication of studies on myocarditis risk, a legitimate methodological critique emerged, sparking scientific debate: how is it determined whether the cause of myocarditis is the vaccine or SARS-CoV-2 infection when both events occur in the same time period? If a person contracts COVID-19 shortly after receiving the first vaccine dose, are they classified as not fully vaccinated, and thus is the myocarditis attributed to the infection rather than the vaccine? Could this criterion create an attribution bias, underestimating the risk related to the first dose? Which studies accounted for this? And how was it

diagnosed whether a person with myocarditis was infected with COVID, solely based on a positive PCR test (an echo of Chapter 2)?

Dr. Peter McCullough, in his statement before the U.S. Senate in May 2025, "*Opening Statement of Dr McCullough May 2025 Hearing Revised May 7 2025*," expressed concern about the adverse effects of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, particularly on the heart. He sharply criticized the institutional response to cases of myocarditis and death post-vaccination, accusing agencies like the FDA, CDC, and cardiology associations of minimizing risks and failing to act responsibly in light of clinical findings. He also pointed out a lack of research on the role of the spike protein and mRNA in prolonged diseases and advocated for an urgent critical review by the government, suggesting that the current approach represents a serious threat to public health.

The European Union's EUDRA Vigilance database reported in January 2022 a total of 38,000 deaths and 3.4 million adverse events, while the U.S. VAERS system recorded in April 2022 27,000 deaths, 150,000 hospitalizations, and 39,000 cases of myocarditis/pericarditis.

As previously noted, a global study published in *Vaccine*, April 2, 2024, "*COVID-19 vaccines and adverse events of special interest: A multinational Global Vaccine Data Network (GVDN) cohort study of 99 million vaccinated individuals,*" based on data from 99 million vaccinated individuals, confirmed myocarditis and pericarditis as rare but significant effects.

- **Excess Mortality**

In Europe, the Euromomo system reported in 2022 an excess mortality of 691% in children aged 0–14 years, with an alarming peak of 2,500% in the first week of August 2022 (770 deaths compared to 29 in 2020), coinciding with the EMA's approval of vaccines for children.

In Spain, *Redacción Médica* reported on November 22, 2022, in the article *"¿Efecto protrombótico de la vacuna covid? Neurología pide analizar muertes*" (Prothrombotic effect of the COVID vaccine? Neurology calls for analyzing deaths), an excess mortality of 33,000 deaths compared to the previous year. Neurologist Tomás Segura identified three possible causes: the collapse of the healthcare system, the prothrombotic impact of COVID-19 infection, and the possibility that vaccines used against the virus could have prothrombotic side effects. He noted that vaccines could induce the production of the S protein, which can adhere to arterial endothelium, generating a prothrombotic effect. Additionally, he highlighted that strokes had increased by 10% in emergency departments, correlating with the excess mortality.

As seen previously, a report from the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics (ONS) on August 25, 2023, "*Deaths by vaccination status, England*," revealed that approximately 92% of COVID-19 deaths in England occurred in individuals who had received three or more vaccine doses.

- **Controversial Mortality Estimates**

As noted in Chapter 3, a study published by Denis G. Rancourt, Joseph Hickey, and Christian Linard on July 19, 2024, in *Correlation*, titled "*Spatiotemporal variation of excess all-cause mortality in the world (125 countries) during the Covid period 2020-2023 regarding socio-economic factors and public-health and medical interventions*," concluded that, for 2021–2022 and for the 78 countries with sufficient data, an estimated projected global excess mortality associated with COVID-19 vaccination programs was 16.9 million vaccine-associated deaths.

- **Censorship and Suppression of Information**

As previously mentioned, the Twitter Files (2022–2023), revealed after Twitter's acquisition by Elon Musk, exposed communications between platform executives, U.S. government agencies, and pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer, requesting the moderation of content about side effects, even when the claims were truthful.

A U.S. Senate report cited on May 21, 2025, by the *New York Post* in the article titled "*Biden officials knew about, downplayed COVID-19 vaccine risks, Senate report claims*," revealed that in February 2021, U.S. federal health officials were alerted to numerous cases of myocarditis in young people vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine. However, according to a report by Senator Ron Johnson, they decided not to issue a formal warning until June and chose to publicly downplay the risks. During that period, doctors who raised concerns about the condition were censored or accused of spreading disinformation. Despite internal debates within agencies like the CDC and FDA, no national health alert (HAN) was issued, and the risk was only discreetly mentioned on the CDC's website. The vaccine's official label was updated in late June 2021, when reported cases had already increased significantly. The report denounces that this delay may have compromised the health of young Americans.

Analysis

The official narrative of "safe and effective" simplified an infinitely more complex reality, minimizing risks that had devastating consequences for those who suffered them. Myocarditis in young people and thromboses associated with AstraZeneca were not mere anecdotes for the families facing these tragedies. The excess mortality data, such as the 691% in European children reported by Euromomo or the 33,000 excess deaths in Spain according to *Redacción Médica*, along with the controversial estimate by Rancourt et al. of 17 million global deaths, raise unsettling questions that authorities have evaded. The censorship of adverse event reports, evidenced in the Twitter Files, and the reluctance of the CDC and FDA to promptly warn about myocarditis, as revealed by the U.S. Senate in 2025, suggest a deliberate effort to protect the official narrative rather than prioritize public safety.

Institutional opacity was exacerbated by a systemic denial within the medical community, as noted by Dr. Peter McCullough. According to McCullough, many

doctors, having promoted and received the vaccines, face a psychological barrier to recognizing harm, a "willful blindness" that perpetuates silence. This dynamic, combined with the lack of investigations into anomalies like the 770 child deaths in one week in August 2022, reinforces the perception that authorities prioritized narrative control over truth. As the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*: "The official data show an excess of deaths that COVID does not explain, but no one dares to name the cause." Though his neighbors label him a conspiracy theorist, the data support his doubts.

Story of a Citizen: Carla's Struggle

Imagine Carla, a 29-year-old accountant in Chicago, in 2022. After her second Pfizer dose, she suffers myocarditis. The doctors call it "rare," but Carla finds thousands of similar cases in VAERS. On X, a post leads her to EUDRA Vigilance and, years later, to the Congress report (Chapter 5). "I'm not alone," she thinks. Despite family rejection, Carla creates an online support group for victims, connecting with other activists. In 2025, they file a class-action lawsuit, inspiring Miguel (Chapter 5). "We're not seeking revenge; we're seeking justice," she says. "The Old Cuckoo was right," she quotes: "The truth heals when silence sickens."

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Cuckoo, sitting in the dim light of his study, scribbling in a notebook filled with press clippings and statistics ignored by the headlines: child deaths, unexpected miscarriages, inflamed hearts in young people just beginning to live. His neighbors mock him, call him crazy, but the numbers do not lie, and the stories of the victims—mothers who lost babies, families mourning unexplained losses—resonate in his heart. Every person affected by a side effect, every life cut short by an untold truth, deserves more than institutional silence. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*, "is the authority that gives us the courage to look power in the eye."

In a world where official narratives choose convenience over transparency, questioning them is not only a right but an act of courage and love toward those who suffer in the shadows. Can we dream of a future where institutions speak with humility, admitting risks from the outset, where transparency is the foundation of trust and not an exception granted reluctantly? As citizens, our power lies in the questions we dare to ask, in our determination to seek a truth that honors everyone, not just those who hold power. The search for truth is an act of resistance against disinformation, a commitment to a society that heals, united by clarity and justice, not fractured by fear and concealment.

The minimization of vaccine side effects, buried under triumphant headlines, reflects a system that protects elites. As we will discover in Chapter 13, networks of power, like those revealed by the Epstein case, operate in the shadows, using silence and censorship to maintain their dominance, a pattern that connects public health to the darkest secrets.

Chapter 5: Congressional Report: The Hidden Truths of the Pandemic

Official Narrative

When the COVID-19 pandemic paralyzed the world in 2020, global health authorities, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), assured the public that the implemented measures—lockdowns, masks, and vaccines—were based on the best available science. Governments, backed by unified media coverage, presented these policies as the only path to save lives and restore normality. In the United States, the message was clear: institutions acted swiftly and effectively, despite the challenges of an unknown virus. Any criticism of the crisis management, particularly regarding the transparency of pharmaceutical contracts or the censorship of data, was dismissed as disinformation that threatened the collective effort. This narrative, amplified by headlines and government campaigns, suggested that errors, if any, were minor and outweighed by the success of the vaccines. However, a U.S. Congressional report published on December 2, 2024, titled "*After Action Review of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Lessons Learned and a Path Forward*," uncovered a far more unsettling reality, revealing serious institutional failures that not only cost lives but eroded public trust in the institutions sworn to protect us.

Evidence

The U.S. Congressional report, prepared by the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, is a monumental document that exposes the cracks in the official response to the crisis. Based on hundreds of interviews, declassified documents, and data from agencies such as the CDC, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the report offers a relentless examination of the opacity, conflicts of interest, and erroneous decisions that defined pandemic management. Below are the key pieces of evidence supporting this analysis, connecting with themes explored in previous chapters, such as the virus's origin (Chapter 1) and censorship (Chapter 11).

- **Origins of COVID-19 and the "Lab Leak" Cover-Up**

The report dedicates a significant section to the origins of SARS-CoV-2, concluding that it is likely the virus emerged from a laboratory accident or related research, particularly at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) (p. 1). This hypothesis, dismissed as a "conspiracy theory" by public health officials, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and former NIH director Francis Collins, is now presented as the most plausible explanation based on evidence gathered by the Subcommittee. The report details how Fauci expedited the publication of the article "*The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2*" in 2020, with the explicit aim of "debunking" the lab leak theory (p. 5). This article, widely cited by the media to

discredit the lab hypothesis, was influenced by Fauci, who later evaded scrutiny over his role by manipulating definitions of gain-of-function research (p. 133).

Furthermore, the report notes that EcoHealth Alliance, an organization funded by the NIH, facilitated gain-of-function research at the WIV without adequate oversight from the NIH and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) (pp. 58–123). EcoHealth not only submitted late reports on dangerous experiments (p. 68) but also misled the NIH about the location of samples funded by U.S. taxpayers (p. 102) and failed to report risky experiments in a timely manner (p. 78). Even more alarming, the report reveals that the NIH awarded funds to the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy, raising serious questions about national security and the management of public funds (p. 139). These revelations confirm that health authorities not only failed to oversee dangerous research but actively worked to suppress legitimate debates about the virus's origins, labeling them as disinformation to protect their own interests.

- **Lack of Transparency in Vaccine Contracts**

The report highlights that contracts between the U.S. government and pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer and Moderna, signed under Operation Warp Speed, contained opaque clauses that protected corporate interests above public health. For example, Pfizer negotiated legal immunity against lawsuits for side effects, while pricing and distribution terms remained hidden until 2024, when public pressure forced their declassification, according to *After Action Review*, pp. 150–160. An analysis by *The New York Times* in March 2024 on secrets in vaccine contracts revealed that these agreements prioritized deliveries to wealthy countries, leaving low-income nations with limited access to vaccines until 2022, exacerbating global inequality. This opacity, which connects to the institutional corruption in Chapter 11, fueled suspicions that pharmaceutical companies dictated public policy.

- **Policies Without Scientific Basis: Lockdowns, Masks, and Vaccine Mandates**

The report is unequivocal in stating that several public health measures implemented during the pandemic lacked scientific foundation and caused more harm than good. Among the most striking findings:

- **Lockdowns**: Prolonged closures were not supported by scientific evidence and had devastating consequences for the economy, mental health, child development, and the physical health of Americans (pp. 214–218). Vaccine passports, described as "de facto lockdowns" for the unvaccinated, were implemented without scientific justification and contributed to social polarization (p. 218).
- **Masks**: The report confirms that mask mandates were ineffective in controlling the spread of COVID-19 (p. 203). The CDC relied on flawed studies to justify these policies, and officials repeatedly changed their stance on mask efficacy without transparency, eroding public trust (pp. 204–207). Forcing mask

use on young children, from age two, caused more harm than benefit, affecting their social and emotional development (p. 212).

- **Vaccine Mandates**: Vaccine mandates imposed by the Biden administration not only lacked scientific support but caused "massive collateral damage" by affecting military readiness, social cohesion, and individual autonomy (pp. 336–347). The report highlights that natural immunity, widely ignored by health officials, was effective and durable, and coordinated efforts to suppress this knowledge were antidemocratic (pp. 331–332).

- **Failures in Nursing Home Management**

The report dedicates a devastating section to the abandonment of the elderly in U.S. nursing homes. In New York, the directive of then-Governor Andrew Cuomo in March 2020, which ordered the admission of COVID-19 patients into nursing homes, resulted in over 15,000 avoidable deaths, according to *After Action Review*, pp. 221–230. Nationally, the HHS failed to implement clear protocols to protect the elderly, and mortality data were underreported until 2022. *The Associated Press* (*AP News*) published on January 28, 2021, an article titled "*NY data show nursing home deaths undercounted by thousands*," highlighting a damning report by New York Attorney General Letitia James, which revealed that the state of New York may have underreported COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes by up to 50%. This revelation tarnished the public image of then-Governor Andrew Cuomo, who had promoted the state's handling as exemplary during the pandemic. For many affected families, like that of Vivian Zayas, whose testimony appears in the article, the report represents an act of justice and recognition. As seen previously, Amnesty International published on December 3, 2020, a study titled "*Abandonadas a su suerte: La desprotección y discriminación de las personas mayores en residencias durante la pandemia COVID-19 en España*" (Abandoned to their fate: The neglect and discrimination of the elderly in nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic in Spain), which reported that thousands of elderly people died in nursing homes without access to hospital care, due to lack of access to health services, discriminatory protocols, and human rights violations. This study connects with these failures, highlighting the use of sedatives like midazolam without proper oversight, as discussed in Chapter 2.

- **Suppression of Vaccine Information**

The *After Action Review* report devotes a crucial section to the adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccines, confirming that associated risks were neither adequately investigated nor communicated (p. 349). The most alarming findings include:

- **Inadequate Surveillance Systems**: The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is inadequate and lacks transparency, making it difficult to identify safety signals, especially for neurological conditions (pp. 349–353). The CDC created a specific surveillance system for COVID-19 vaccines but has not fully shared the data, fueling perceptions of concealment (p. 355).

- **Lack of Compensation for Harm**: The Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP) was unprepared to handle a mass vaccination

program, leaving victims of adverse effects without an efficient, fair, or transparent process for receiving compensation (pp. 357–363). The report emphasizes that discussing vaccine injuries is not "anti-vaccine" and that stigmatizing these discussions harms public trust (p. 364).

- **Accelerated Pfizer Approval**: The Biden administration expedited the approval of Pfizer's biologics license application to impose vaccine mandates, sidelining senior scientists who expressed concerns about the rushed process (pp. 311–326). This haste prioritized political goals over public safety.
- **Minimizing Vaccine Side Effects**: The report criticizes the CDC for downplaying reports of vaccine adverse effects recorded in VAERS. By December 2021, VAERS had accumulated over 700,000 reports, including cases of myocarditis and thrombosis, but the CDC classified them as "rare" without thorough investigations (pp. 300–310).

- **Obstruction of Congressional Investigation**

The report reveals a pattern of obstruction by the Biden administration and other entities. The HHS deliberately hindered the Subcommittee's investigation, concealing evidence that could incriminate or embarrass senior health officials and restricting access to key witnesses (pp. 443–449). EcoHealth Alliance and its president, Dr. Peter Daszak, also obstructed the investigation, altering documents and providing false statements to Congress, in violation of federal laws (pp. 456–466). Even more serious, Dr. David Morens, a senior NIAID official, used personal email accounts to evade the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), deleted federal records, and shared internal information with EcoHealth, acting contrary to the ethics of a public official (pp. 467–508). These actions reflect a systematic effort to evade accountability and keep the public in the dark.

- **Failures in Oversight of Pandemic Relief Funds**

The report exposes poor management of economic relief programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which resulted in massive losses due to fraud. The PPP lost at least $64 billion due to fraudulent claims, while unemployment insurance programs suffered an estimated fraud of over $191 billion (pp. 148, 153). The EIDL loans were also vulnerable, with losses of at least $200 million (p. 159). The lack of adequate controls by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the absence of modern financial systems in federal and state agencies allowed transnational criminal organizations and scammers to exploit these programs (pp. 164–169). These failures not only squandered taxpayer funds but also diverted essential resources from the most needy communities, exacerbating economic inequalities during the pandemic.

- **Ignored Socioeconomic Impact**

The report notes that prolonged lockdowns, promoted without solid evidence, devastated the economy and mental health. In the U.S., unemployment reached 14.7% in April 2020, according to the Department of Labor, May 8, 2020, and cases of depression increased significantly.

The report details how pandemic policies devastated American communities. School closures, driven by the influence of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), a non-scientific organization, lacked scientific backing and caused lasting academic losses, increased mental health issues, and deterioration of physical health in children and youth (pp. 411–441). The AFT even managed to influence the CDC to modify its guidelines to keep schools closed, prioritizing political interests over child welfare (pp. 420–428). Economically, the forced closure of businesses, combined with a supply chain dependent on China, disproportionately affected rural and low-income areas, with long-term effects that persist (pp. 376–383). Low-wage workers faced higher unemployment rates, a problem likely to continue for the next decade (p. 393).

- **Influence of the WHO and China**

The report criticizes the excessive reliance of the United States on the World Health Organization (WHO), which succumbed to pressure from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and failed in its mission to protect global health (pp. 171–173). The CCP violated Articles 6 and 7 of the International Health Regulations by downplaying the threat of COVID-19, delaying travel restrictions that could have saved lives (pp. 180–288). The WHO's report on the origins of COVID-19 was incomplete and reflected CCP propaganda, omitting the lab leak hypothesis (p. 182). These international failures, combined with the lack of preparedness of the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile, left the country vulnerable (pp. 189–190).

Analysis

The U.S. Congressional report is not merely a document; it is an indictment of a system that prioritized narrative control over life and truth. The official narrative that institutions acted with competence and transparency crumbles in the face of evidence of opacity, censorship, and negligence. The pharmaceutical contracts, protected by secret clauses, reflect an alliance between governments and corporations that the Old Cuckoo would describe as "puppeteers pulling strings in the shadows" (as in Chapter 14). The censorship of data on natural immunity and alternative treatments, coordinated between agencies and tech companies, did not protect public health; it protected a narrative that justified authoritarian measures and enriched a few, as explored in Chapter 11.

The abandonment in nursing homes, both in the U.S. and Spain, is a brutal reminder of institutional priorities. While headlines celebrated vaccines, the elderly died alone, victims of policies the report describes as "disastrous." This tragedy was not an accident; it was the result of a bureaucracy that valued obedience over humanity. The minimization of side effects, ignoring data from VAERS and EUDRA Vigilance, perpetuated a convenient lie: that vaccines were a universal solution, without risks or nuances.

The cover-up of the virus's origin, with the NIH funding risky experiments while Fauci dismissed the lab leak hypothesis, is perhaps the most serious failure. As detailed in Chapter 1, this opacity not only delayed the truth but fueled a public

distrust that persists. The report reveals a clear pattern: institutions, far from being guardians of truth, acted as its undertakers, silencing those, like Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. (RFK Jr., Chapter 12), who dared to doubt.

Yet the report is also a beacon of hope. By exposing these failures, it validates the questions of citizens like Javier, Lucía, and Elena (whose stories we will see in later chapters), proving that informed doubt is not conspiracy but resistance. The declassification of contracts and the admission of errors are victories of free thought. However, the struggle does not end here. This chapter challenges us to demand accountability, to use these revelations to build a future where transparency is not an exception but the norm.

Story of a Citizen: Miguel's Search

Imagine Miguel, a 42-year-old accountant in Chicago, in the winter of 2024. His desk is covered with notes: VAERS screenshots, *The New York Times* clippings, links to the Congressional report. In 2020, Miguel trusted the news. He believed lockdowns would save his 78-year-old mother in a New York nursing home. But she died alone, with COVID-19, after being transferred alongside infected patients under Cuomo's order. "It was avoidable," Miguel murmurs, with the Congressional report open on his screen.

Miguel began investigating. He read about Pfizer's opaque contracts, the censorship on Twitter, the experiments in Wuhan. Each piece of data was a wound, but also a spark. In his community, he formed a group to analyze the report, sharing findings on X. They discovered that deaths in their neighborhood's nursing homes followed patterns similar to those in New York: abandonment, sedation, silence. "We don't want revenge; we want justice," Miguel said at their meetings.

In 2025, Miguel's group submitted a petition to the city council, demanding audits of nursing homes. Their work inspired others in Chicago, connecting with movements like "Por la Verdad" in Spain (Chapter 19). Miguel was not an activist; he was a son seeking answers. Like Lucía and Elena, his pain became action, his doubt a beacon. "The Old Cuckoo was right," he said, quoting: "The truth is not a trophy; it is a path." Miguel is one of millions who, with the Congressional report in hand, are forging that path.

Philosophical Reflection

The Old Cuckoo, leafing through the Congressional report under his flickering lamp, scribbles: "The truth is not found in the glow of headlines, but in the shadows they try to hide." The Congressional report is more than a document; it is a mirror reflecting the fragility of our faith in institutions. Each page—opaque contracts, censorship, abandoned elderly—is a reminder that blind trust is a trap. But it is also an invitation. Miguel, with his relentless search, shows us that truth

is not a gift; it is a fire we ignite with questions, a fire that illuminates not only the past but the future.

The pandemic taught us that power, when unquestioned, becomes tyranny. The failures exposed in this report, from Wuhan to nursing homes, are wounds that still bleed, but also lessons that empower us. As citizens, our duty is clear: to take these truths, like Miguel, and use them to demand a world where elites are held accountable, where transparency is a right, where love for our fellow human beings guides every decision. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote, “is the path we walk together.” In this moment of awakening, every question we ask, every action we take, is a step toward a luminous future, a future that begins with us.

The Congressional report, with its dissection of fraud, cover-ups, and negligence, is not only an echo of the pandemic past; it is a warning for the present. In Chapter 8, we will explore how geoengineering, hidden behind a veil of ridicule, reflects the same institutional opacity that allowed elites to manipulate the COVID-19 narrative.

Chapter 6: Opinion: The Cost of Lost Trust

Reflection on the Pandemic Narrative

The COVID-19 pandemic was not merely a health crisis; it was a hurricane that tore through the trust in institutions that swore to be our shield. The official narrative, orchestrated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the media, painted a binary world: trust in science, obey the guidelines, and salvation will come. Masks, lockdowns, vaccines: each mandate was an unquestionable gospel, and doubting was a sin against humanity. But what happens when science becomes a cloak to hide agendas, when doctors remain silent out of fear, and the media lie for convenience? Trust, that fragile thread holding society together, unraveled, leaving citizens like us in a desert of doubts: who can we believe? From my pen, with the Old Cuckoo whispering uncomfortable truths, this chapter explores the price of that betrayed faith, a cost measured in broken lives, divided families, and a collective yearning for truth.

Evidence

Official disinformation was not a misstep; it was a deliberate strategy that crushed legitimate questions, manipulated perceptions, and turned institutions into guardians of narratives, not truth. The evidence—from lethal medical protocols to media censorship—reveals a system that sacrificed humanity for control.

- **Questionable Medical Protocols**

In the early months of the pandemic, hospital decisions sowed tragedies. In Spain, the widespread use of midazolam in nursing homes led to thousands of deaths under sedation, without access to intensive care. This respiratory sedative, in high doses, could be fatal, and its mass application suggests a cruel management of resources, an echo of the institutional abandonment in Chapter 2. In the U.S., the overuse of mechanical ventilators, driven by CDC protocols, raised doubts about mortality rates of 75–90% in some hospitals. An article published in 2021 by *Critical Care Medicine*, titled "*Mechanical ventilation parameters in critically ill COVID-19 patients: a scoping review*," noted that mortality in critically ill COVID-19 patients receiving mechanical ventilation was high—in some studies, up to 74%—raising concerns about whether certain aspects of ventilation may have contributed to poor clinical outcomes. However, it does not claim that ventilators directly caused the deaths. It does mention that improper ventilator settings can cause ventilator-induced lung injury.

The refusal to explore alternative treatments was equally troubling. As seen previously, *The BMJ*, in 2022, "Unethical studies of ivermectin for covid-19," documented how promising studies on ivermectin were dismissed without rigor,

protecting the narrative of vaccines as the exclusive solution, despite initial evidence of its potential.

- **Medical Obedience**

The medical class, elevated to hero status, was complicit through its silence. In Spain, professionals like Dr. Luis de Benito, among many others who questioned protocols or advocated for alternative treatments, were harassed. However, many healthcare professionals did not yield to coercion and denounced the irregular situation. In this regard, on January 8, 2025, the outlet *El Criterio* published an article titled "*Manifiesto de Médicos por la Verdad*" (Manifesto of Doctors for Truth), signed by Dr. Natalia Prego and other authors. The text outlines the demands of this healthcare collective, denouncing institutional pressures and lack of transparency during the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. In their manifesto, they call for the immediate suspension of COVID vaccines, recognition and compensation for those affected, restitution of sanctions and fines, and the protection of fundamental rights. They also demand public apologies from institutions for the treatment received, an independent analysis of health data, and an investigative commission to review errors made. The tone is critical and deeply reflective, warning about the dangers of social conformism and the gradual loss of freedoms in contexts of fear. The manifesto seeks to open an ethical debate on science, power, and civic responsibility.

Various publications indicated that fear of reprisals dissuaded doctors in the U.S. and Europe from challenging official guidelines, even in the face of adverse outcomes. This blind obedience, which we will explore in Chapter 11 on corruption, perpetuated errors that cost lives.

- **Media Complicity**

The media did not investigate; they amplified dogma. In Spain, *El País* and TVE minimized nursing home deaths and dismissed vaccine side effects, ignoring thousands of reports in EUDRA Vigilance. In the U.S., the "Twitter Files" (2022–2023) exposed how media collaborated with Twitter to censor vaccine criticisms, even those based on data.

Project Censored updated on May 22, 2023, its article "*The Censorship of Inequality in the Covid-19 Era: How Corporate and Market-Based Metrics Rule the News, and Why it Matters,*" noting a media blackout on public opinion regarding inequality amid the COVID-19 crisis, part of a broader structural pattern of corporate media.

During the pandemic, the media were complicit in a crime recorded in archived headlines and videos of anchors ridiculing freethinkers.

- **Erosion of Trust**

The distrust is tangible. *Pew Research Center* published on November 14, 2023, a report titled "*Americans' Trust in Scientists, Positive Views of Science Continue to Decline*," revealing a concerning decline in Americans' trust in scientists, as well as a drop in positive perceptions of science's impact on society.

Only 57% consider science to have mostly beneficial effects, a figure that has significantly decreased since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this decline in trust, a significant majority of citizens (78%) still support public investment in scientific research.

- **Psychological and Social Impact**

The official narrative not only eroded trust; it unleashed a psychological war. The polarization induced by the media during the pandemic increased cases of anxiety and depression. In Spain, the social ostracism against the unvaccinated, fueled by media campaigns, led to family and workplace ruptures. A post on X describes how "the 'anti-vax' label destroyed lives, not viruses." This damage, which will resonate in Chapter 15 on electoral polarization, turned society into a battlefield.

Analysis

The lost trust is the price of a system that turned science into dogma and doubt into a crime. Health institutions, instead of questioning government impositions, executed them without scruples. The use of midazolam in nursing homes and the overuse of ventilators were not isolated errors; they were symptoms of blind obedience that prioritized control over life, a theme that resonates with Chapter 4 on vaccines. The medical class, caught between fear and faith in authority, failed in its duty to doubt, perpetuating practices that, as we will see in Chapter 11, protected corporate interests more than patients.

The media, instruments of power, not only concealed these failures; they justified them. By ridiculing freethinkers and minimizing tragedies, they left a digital trail of their betrayal: headlines that caricatured, interviews that stigmatized, silences that protected elites. This behavior, which we will explore in Chapter 10, was not journalism; it was propaganda, designed to maintain the status quo, as in the Epstein case (Chapter 13). The official narrative did not unify; it divided, turning neighbors into enemies and families into trenches.

The psychological and social impact of this disinformation is a dark chapter in its own right. The collective anxiety, broken families, and socially excluded citizens for doubting are not collateral damage; they are the result of a strategy that used fear as a weapon. Rebuilding trust requires more than apologies; it demands accountability: trials for the deaths in nursing homes, independent investigations into protocols, and a press that investigates, not amplifies. Without skepticism, trust is merely disguised obedience, a lesson that will resonate in Chapter 12 on RFK Jr.

Story of a Citizen: Javier's Solitude

Javier, a 42-year-old electrician in a village in Castilla-La Mancha, sits in his kitchen in July 2021. His phone flickers with headlines: "The unvaccinated are the danger"; "Get vaccinated for the common good." Javier, a simple man, began to

doubt after reading about thrombosis in EUDRA Vigilance. He was not “anti-vax”; he wanted answers. At family dinners, he asked: Why are we ignoring natural immunity? Why dismiss ivermectin? His sister called him selfish; his brother-in-law, crazy. At the workshop, his colleagues avoided him, fearing he was “a sack of infection.”

Javier spent nights studying Euromomo data, comparing them with TVE headlines. When side effects emerged—myocarditis in a friend’s son, thrombosis in his neighbor—no one acknowledged his caution. “Coincidences,” they said. His family never apologized; his colleagues didn’t look at him differently when *The Lancet*, September 2023, “*Natural SARS-CoV-2 infection-induced immune protection against re-infection,*” confirmed that his natural immunity was robust.

Javier was not a hero; he was an ordinary man, punished for thinking. His solitude, like that of millions, is the cost of betrayed trust.

Philosophical Reflection

The Old Cuckoo, scribbling in his notebook under a flickering lamp, murmurs: “Trust is a bridge; when it breaks, painting it anew is not enough.” Each lethal protocol, each lying headline, each doctor who looked the other way is a nail in the coffin of collective faith. Javier, like so many, paid the price for doubting in a world that rewards obedience. Official disinformation not only fractured institutions; it stole empathy, dialogue, humanity.

Rebuilding trust demands courage: demanding trials for nursing home deaths, investigations into protocols, and media that serve truth, not power. Skepticism is not the enemy; it is the beacon that guides us. As the Old Cuckoo wrote in *The Great Circus of Faith*: “The truth is not found in applause; it is forged in questions.” In a world of manipulated narratives, our power is to question, a challenge that will resonate in the chapters on corruption (Chapter 11) and resistance (Chapter 12).

But how do we move forward without falling into absolute distrust, where everything is a lie and no one deserves faith? The answer lies in small victories: communities uniting to demand transparency, citizens reading reports instead of headlines, doctors breaking their silence. The truth is not a destination; it is a path we walk with courage, a path that Javier, in his own way, began to tread. His story, like those of so many, reminds us that trust is rebuilt not with empty promises but with actions, with questions that illuminate the shadows, and with a society that values doubt as an act of love, not betrayal.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, pause for a moment. Think of Javier, in his forced silence, his despised doubts. Think of the times you stayed quiet for fear of rejection. The lost trust unites us in a common struggle: to build a world where doubting is a right, not a punishment. Seek the data, listen to the silenced, demand answers. But don’t

stop there: build bridges with those still willing to listen, share truths that empower, not destroy. The truth is not a gift; it is a conquest, and every question is a step toward a fairer future where faith is earned, not imposed.

The stories of Javier and other citizens, punished for doubting, are a testament to the human cost of disinformation. In Chapter 17, we will see how the circus of absurd conspiracies, amplified by the media, diverts attention from these uncomfortable truths, protecting the puppeteers who orchestrate chaos from the shadows.

Part II: Climate and Environment

Chapter 7: Climate Change: Science, Alarmism, and Silences

Official Narrative

Since the late 20th century, climate change has been presented as the greatest threat to humanity, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and organizations like the United Nations leading an alarmist discourse. According to this narrative, CO_2 emissions from human activity are the primary cause of global warming, which will unleash irreversible catastrophes: rising sea levels, deadly heatwaves, devastating droughts, and ecosystem collapse. Solutions such as renewable energy, carbon taxes, and international agreements like the Paris Agreement are promoted as the only way to avert an apocalypse. The media, from *The Guardian* to *El País*, amplify this message, while any doubt—about the magnitude of warming, the benefits of CO_2, or the reliability of climate models—is labeled as "denialism" and censored, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when narrative control intensified. This monolithic narrative insists that the science is settled and that doubting is a betrayal of the planet. However, the evidence reveals a more complex truth, where data are manipulated, benefits ignored, and political agendas take precedence over reality.

Evidence

A closer examination of the data reveals a more complex reality, where natural factors, the benefits of CO_2, and possible human interventions are silenced in favor of a simplistic narrative. The evidence, from both official sources and independent research, challenges catastrophic predictions and suggests that alarmism may be more aligned with political agendas than with science.

Climate change is a real phenomenon, but its official narrative is riddled with exaggerations, omissions, and distraction strategies reminiscent of the censorship during the pandemic (Chapter 4) and geoengineering (Chapter 8). From scientific studies to posts on X, the evidence shows that the benefits of warming and CO_2 are significant, climate models are unreliable, and the truth is silenced to protect economic and political interests. Below are the key pieces of evidence.

- **Benefits of Warming and CO_2**

Contrary to alarmism, the increase in temperature and CO_2 offers measurable advantages. A study in *Mundo Agropecuario* on July 14, 2024, titled "*La agricultura canadiense pretende beneficiarse del calentamiento global*" (Canadian agriculture aims to benefit from global warming), documents how

northern regions like Canada have intensified agricultural production by leveraging expanded arable zones due to warming.

A global increase in vegetation, attributed to higher CO_2 levels, has been documented by NASA satellite data (*NASA*, April 2016, "*Carbon Dioxide Fertilization Greening Earth, Study Finds"). CO_2, described as an "essential fertilizer*" for plants, has increased agricultural productivity in arid regions. This phenomenon, known as "carbon dioxide fertilization," stimulates photosynthesis and plant growth. The increase in vegetation equates to twice the size of the continental United States.

A study in *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* (2023) confirmed that global greening is partially mitigating climate change, an aspect rarely mentioned in IPCC reports. Researchers from North Carolina State University used satellite imagery and field sensors to analyze how leaf growth in plants—what they call "greening"—is affecting carbon dioxide absorption. Global greening is helping to capture more CO_2.

The Lancet Planetary Health (2022), in an article titled "*The burden of heat-related and cold-related mortality worldwide,*" found that the reduction in deaths from cold far outweighs the increase in deaths from heat, with a global ratio of approximately 9 to 1, resulting in a net positive balance in global mortality.

- **Underestimated Natural Factors**

Recent studies highlight the role of solar cycles and oceanic variability in climate change. A post on X by @JVinos_Climate (account of Javier Vinós) in May 2025 cited research correlating solar activity with historical climate changes, suggesting that the current solar minimum could be cooling the planet.

Studies in *Nature Geoscience* (2023) have shown how oceanic oscillations like the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) can explain up to 30% of recent climate variations, particularly in global surface temperature. These oscillations are factors in the observed global warming, generating periods of acceleration or deceleration in temperature rise. Some studies suggest that IPCC models may underestimate the impact of these internal oscillations, focusing more on external forcings like greenhouse gases. For example, the study "*El Niño and the AMO Sparked the Astonishingly Large Margin of Warming in the Global Mean Surface Temperature in 2023*," published in *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* (2024), indicates that the record warming of 2023 was largely driven by a strong El Niño event and a warm phase of the AMO.

- **Decline in Solar Activity and Cooling**

The UN's alarmist predictions for 2025–2030 are being challenged by recent data. @JVinos_Climate reported in a post on X in June 2025 that May 2025 was the month with the lowest solar activity since 2022, marking the peak of solar cycle 25 in October 2024, 38% more active than the previous cycle. With five years of reduced solar activity ahead, global temperatures could decline, counteracting warming. Measurements from the University of Alabama in

Huntsville (UAH) show that the annual average temperature dropped 0.2°C in the last year, standing at +0.6°C above the mean, with May 2025 at +0.5°C. This cooling, according to @JVinos_Climate, could return temperatures to the average of the last decade within two years, contradicting the UN's climate models (*UAH*, 2025).

- **Unreliability of Climate Models**

IPCC models have consistently overestimated warming. An analysis by Nicola Scafetta published in *Climate Dynamics* in 2022 suggests that many CMIP6 models—particularly those with high climate sensitivity (ECS)—overestimate the warming observed between 1980 and 2021. According to the study, models with medium and high climate sensitivity predict warming higher than observed in over 95% of cases. Even models with low sensitivity may overestimate warming if satellite records, which show less warming than surface records, are considered. The study estimates that actual warming could be up to 30% lower than reported by some surface records.

Nobel Prize-winning physicist John Clauser has openly criticized the IPCC's alarmism, stating that climate models ignore the complexity of the Earth's system. This perspective reinforces data indicating that the anomalous warming of 2023–24 is correcting, revealing the "uselessness" of models for predicting climate. Projections ignore variables like solar activity and oceanic cycles, which could induce cooling.

- **Regional Climate Stability**

The State Meteorological Agency (AEMET) published in 2024 the Report on the State of the Climate in Spain 2023, and although the year 2023 was the sixth driest since 1961, the report indicates that there is no clear and uniform trend of decreasing precipitation across the country. Some regions, such as the central peninsula, Galicia, and the northwest of Castilla y León, had normal or even above-average rainfall. In contrast, areas such as Catalonia, the Valencian Community, and Andalusia recorded values well below usual levels. Regarding 2022, AEMET has pointed out in previous publications that there were regions with above-average rainfall, especially in the northern peninsula. In summary, AEMET confirms that precipitation is not decreasing in a sustained manner throughout Spain.

A post on X by @JVinos_Climate from May 2025 highlighted that AEMET data contradicts narratives of widespread droughts, showing stability or even increases in precipitation over the last two decades. This questions the idea of an imminent water crisis in the Mediterranean. And as we saw in Part 1 of this book, it generates distrust in official alarmist narratives.

- **Hidden Geoengineering**

It has been suggested that geoengineering programs (Chapter 8), such as cloud seeding, could be influencing climate patterns without public transparency. An article in *Environmental Research Letters* (2024) warned that geoengineering, such as aerosol injection into the stratosphere, could be masking the real effects

of climate change, but these programs are rarely discussed by authorities (*Environmental Research Letters*, 2024, article titled "*The risks and uncertainties of solar geoengineering*").

• Economic and Political Interests

The alarmist narrative benefits industries and governments.

The Global Renewables Alliance also published a report in March 2024 stating that $10 trillion must be mobilised in public and private investments to reach the global 2030 renewables goal.

In Europe, carbon taxes raised €80 billion in 2022, according to the EU, without clear evidence of climate impact. Activists have suggested that climate funds finance political agendas, connecting with the corruption discussed in Chapter 11. The pressure to maintain alarmism, as during the pandemic, silences scientific nuance.

• Ineffectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol and Climate Policies

The Kyoto Protocol, signed in 1997 by almost all countries to limit greenhouse gas emissions, has not achieved the expected goals after 28 years of implementation. According to an analysis published by @JVinos_Climate on X (2025), despite billions of euros spent on climate funds and trillions on the energy transition, climate policies have not limited CO_2 emissions, which have increased from 22.8 to 35.5 gigatonnes; have not reduced the rise in atmospheric CO_2, which has gone from 364 to 425 parts per million (ppm); nor have they curbed the rise in global temperature. Climate skeptics question: why expect that continuing with such costly policies, which have not yielded results in three decades, will have any effect in the future? This criticism suggests that either these policies are ineffective, or that is not their real goal, raising the possibility of systematic deception. Who profits from all this?

• Global Cooling and Cold Waves in South America in 2025

According to an analysis published by Javier Vinós on social media (July 2025), the global average temperature has experienced significant cooling in the first six months of the year, dropping from 0.78°C above average at the beginning of January to 0.49°C in June 2025, according to data from the European agency Copernicus, representing a cooling of 0.3°C. This drop was further intensified by a brutal cold wave in South America, affecting countries such as Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, with temperatures up to 10°C below normal. This cold wave caused the global temperature to fall further to just 0.24°C above average, representing a total cooling of 0.6°C so far this year, equivalent to 40% of the total estimated warming since 1850 (+1.5°C). Climate alarmists have not offered an official explanation for this abrupt cooling, as the CO_2 theory does not include a cooling mechanism when the gas increases, and natural variability, such as El Niño in neutral phase, cannot be responsible. Additionally, the hypothesis that events like the Tonga volcano eruption in 2022 are responsible is rejected, contradicting the explanations given for the abrupt warming in 2023. On the other hand, Javier Vinós argues that heat waves, such

as the one recorded in Spain in June (the hottest according to AEMET), do not change the global temperature because they are local meteorological phenomena, not climatic ones, and their definition criteria have been lowered, while polar cold waves do impact globally due to their magnitude and persistence.

- **Winter Gatekeeper Theory and Thermodynamic Effect**

The invasion of polar air masses, such as the one that affected South America in mid-2025, does have a significant impact on global temperature due to a specific thermodynamic mechanism. According to the winter gatekeeper theory of climate change, proposed by Javier Vinós (@JVinos_Climate), the heat that enters the polar night is almost entirely lost as infrared radiation to space, due to the combination of thermodynamics and the low greenhouse effect in the poles during winter, where there is a scarcity of water vapor. This phenomenon is observed in action during events like the South American cold wave, where the heat transported to polar regions is not retained but dissipates quickly, contributing to global cooling. This theory suggests that polar air masses act as a "gatekeeper" that modulates planetary temperature, counteracting the effects of local heat waves, which do not alter the global energy balance in a comparable way. This thermodynamic mechanism and the lack of water vapor in the poles during winter explain why polar cold waves have a more pronounced impact on global temperature than heat waves, challenging dominant alarmist narratives about climate change.

- **Rethinking the Climate Paradigm: Signals Contradicting Models**

Nature published on March 26, 2025, an article titled "*The other climate crisis*." In this article, Shaw and Stevens express growing concern within climate science: while the standard approach has enabled successful predictions, an increasing number of regional signals deviate from expectations. For example, the cooling of the eastern tropical Pacific contradicts models, as does the increase in blocking phenomena over Greenland in summer. And when models have correctly predicted the direction of change, the observed magnitude is often more pronounced than anticipated. These discrepancies are not mere isolated anomalies: they reveal fundamental limitations in the paradigm guiding climate modeling, based on the idea that large- and small-scale processes are well-separated. As disruptive computational approaches emerge and observations challenging current assumptions accumulate, the authors warn that a profound revision of the dominant conceptual framework may be necessary.

In this context, some voices—like that of Javier Vinós—raise legitimate doubts about the ability of the current paradigm to fully explain CO_2-induced warming, especially when it relies on positive feedbacks that are difficult to quantify. However, the article suggests paths to revitalize research: from generating new testable hypotheses to improving the connection between components of the climate system.

Analysis

The official climate change narrative, centered on CO_2 as the sole driver of warming, simplifies a complex reality where natural factors, such as solar cycles, oceanic oscillations, and thermodynamic mechanisms, play a more significant role. IPCC models, which underpin catastrophic predictions, have proven inaccurate. The omission of CO_2's benefits, such as global greening, and the silence on geoengineering programs suggest a deliberate selection of data to support a crisis narrative.

Why this alarmist approach? Climate alarmism may serve agendas of social control, justifying energy restrictions, carbon taxes, and policies that limit individual freedom. In Chapter 8, we will explore the possibility that geoengineering is manipulating the climate without public knowledge, which, if confirmed, would be an example of official disinformation. The censorship of alternative perspectives, like those of Javier Vinós, which highlight natural factors, recalls the suppression of debates about the COVID-19 origin. As the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog: "When everyone shouts 'crisis,' someone is selling something." The data from @JVinos_Climate, backed by John Clauser, show that warming and CO_2 have expanded the biosphere, reduced cold-related deaths, and expanded arable zones, contradicting catastrophic projections. The recent cooling, driven by declining solar activity and thermodynamic movements, disproves the IPCC's unreliable models. This opacity recalls the censorship of the lab leak origin (Chapter 1) and the minimization of vaccine side effects (Chapter 4).

The amplification of alarmism, supported by media and corporations, does not protect the planet; it protects economic interests, from the renewable energy industry to carbon taxes. The censorship of nuances, revealed by the "Twitter Files," silences those offering verifiable data. This pattern, connected to geoengineering (Chapter 8), suggests that power manipulates discourse to keep us fearful and submissive, an echo of Chapter 13. The ridicule of "denialists," like the absurd theories in Chapter 17, is a strategy to divert attention from inconvenient evidence.

This does not negate the need to protect the environment. Pollution and deforestation are real problems requiring practical solutions. However, disinformation arises when data are manipulated to generate fear rather than understanding. The climate truth demands an open debate that includes both the risks and benefits of CO_2, and transparent investigation into interventions like geoengineering. Only then can we address climate variation without sacrificing our autonomy.

The Old Cuckoo, scribbling under his lamp, would put it this way: "It's not the climate they lie about; it's what they gain from our fear." The truth requires informed skepticism: contrasting models with data and questioning who benefits. The advantages of CO_2 and the potential imminent cooling are beacons of hope, but only if we claim them. This chapter challenges us to look beyond the media

circus and build a future where science, not subsidized narratives (Chapter 10), guides our decisions.

Story of a Citizen: Marcos's Search

Imagine Marcos, a 45-year-old engineer in Bilbao, in the spring of 2025. His desk is cluttered with notes: screenshots from @JVinos_Climate, articles from *Nature Climate Change*, UAH data. In 2020, Marcos believed the headlines: climate change would destroy the planet. But the droughts that never came and the cold winters of 2024 made him doubt. On X, he found a post about carbon taxes funding opaque projects. "What if they're lying to us?" he wondered.

Marcos investigated. He read about the biosphere's expansion, declining solar activity, English vineyards. He shared a report by John Clauser in a neighborhood group, but they labeled him a "denialist." He didn't give up. He formed a study circle with friends, analyzing data. In 2025, they organized a local forum to discuss the climate without alarmism, connecting with other activists. "We don't want to fight; we want the truth," Marcos said. His group, like those of Clara and Elena, transformed doubt into action. "The Old Cuckoo was right," he quoted: "The truth is not in the headlines; it's in the data they hide."

Philosophical Reflection

The Old Cuckoo, gazing at a clear sky from his window, scribbles: "The climate changes, but the truth is non-negotiable." Each exaggerated model, each alarmist headline, is a reminder that power uses fear to control us through personal guilt. Marcos shows us that the truth is not a shout but a whisper in the data: a greener planet, a cooling that may come, a future we can shape. This chapter, like the book, is a map for navigating the shadows of the narrative.

The pandemic taught us that doubt is resistance. Climate alarmism, like geoengineering (Chapter 8) or distractions (Chapter 17), is another battlefield where truth is buried. Our mission is clear: question the models, verify the data, unite like Marcos. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote, "is a fire ignited by questions." In this crucial moment, each piece of evidence we claim is a step toward a world where science illuminates, not manipulates, and where the planet is our home, not our prison.

The climate alarmism, woven with exaggerated models and censorship, is a strategy to keep us fearful and divided. As we will discover in Chapter 10, this power game, where elites manipulate narratives to control resources and wills, connects the climate with the pandemic lies, revealing a system that fears the light of truth.

Chapter 8: Geoengineering: War for Control of the Climate

Official Narrative

Geoengineering, understood as the deliberate and large-scale manipulation of the Earth's climate, is presented by global institutions such as the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), elite universities, and meteorological agencies as a scientifically promising solution to counteract climate change. Techniques such as stratospheric aerosol injection to reflect sunlight or cloud seeding to induce rainfall are promoted as complements to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, capable of averting an apocalypse of rising seas, extreme heat, and collapsing ecosystems. Projects like Harvard's Solar Geoengineering Research Program, funded by philanthropists like Bill Gates, are sold as responsible initiatives under strict ethical protocols. In Spain, the Spanish State Meteorological Agency (AEMET) acknowledged that more than 50 countries implement weather modification programs focused on managing water resources, increasing precipitation in arid zones, or reducing hail, describing them as safe and practical. Governments and media, from *La Vanguardia* to *El País*, assure that these interventions are local, benevolent, and designed to benefit humanity.

However, this optimistic narrative omits controversies and risks, relegating geoengineering to a futuristic fantasy or caricaturing suspicions about chemtrails and clandestine programs as conspiracy theories. When climate change emerged as the great global villain, the UN and academic elites forged an unyielding narrative: carbon emissions threaten an apocalypse of rising seas, scorching heat, and collapsing ecosystems. Salvation, they assure, lies in renewable energy, carbon taxes, and agreements like the Paris Agreement, while geoengineering is presented as an emergency plan for a desperate world. Critics, from skeptical scientists to citizens, warn that these technologies could trigger climate imbalances, affect health and ecosystems, or serve as tools for global control, militarizing the climate or consolidating power in the hands of elites. History and declassified documents reveal that geoengineering is not a theoretical proposal but an entrenched practice with motivations that transcend philanthropy. Is it a tool to save the planet or a weapon in a silent war for climate control?

Evidence

Geoengineering is a documented reality, with decades of history, active projects in over 50 countries, advanced patents, and silenced scientific dissent. From official reports to citizen complaints, the evidence shows that the skies are being manipulated without transparency, resonating with institutional opacity (Chapter 11), censorship (Chapter 10), and media distractions (Chapter 17). Below are some key pieces of evidence, integrating historical, local, global, and citizen data.

- **Official Weather Modification Programs**

Cloud seeding, a technique using chemicals like silver iodide to induce precipitation, is a widely used practice worldwide. In 1979, Spain's *Boletín Oficial del Estado* (BOE) published an agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to intensify precipitation, evidencing Spain's active participation in international weather modification projects (*Boletín Oficial del Estado*, February 13, 1979). In 2021, the RT network reported that the United Arab Emirates used drones equipped with electric discharge technology to generate rainfall during a scorching heatwave, complementing its advanced cloud seeding program (*RT*, July 15, 2021, "*Emiratos Árabes Unidos provoca fuertes lluvias artificiales con una nueva tecnología en medio de una ola de calor de casi 50 grados*"- United Arab Emirates triggers heavy artificial rainfall using new technology amid a heat wave nearing 50 degrees Celsius). The WMO, in its 2017 bulletin, documented that over 50 countries engage in weather modification for various purposes, such as dissipating fog at airports, inducing rain in arid zones, or reducing hail size to protect crops, though it also acknowledged significant risks, such as transboundary impacts that could alter neighboring regions' climate patterns (*World Meteorological Organization Bulletin*, 2017). In Spain, AEMET confirmed in 2021 that these activities aim to increase precipitation by 10 to 20%, a practical goal that is not without controversy.

- **Documented Geoengineering Programs**

The IPCC and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (2015) acknowledge that stratospheric aerosol injection is viable for cooling the planet (*National Academy of Sciences*, 2015, "*Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth*"). Harvard's Solar Geoengineering Research Program, funded by Gates, has been testing balloons to disperse particles since 2017 (*Harvard Solar Geoengineering Research Program*). In Europe, SCOPEX tests aerosols in Sweden with minimal disclosure (*SCoPEx: Controlled stratospheric perturbation experiment*, September 2021).

- **China's Ambitious Project**

In February 2021, *La Vanguardia* reported that China is developing the world's largest geoengineering program, covering 5 million square kilometers through cloud seeding with silver iodide and other substances dispersed by specialized aircraft (*La Vanguardia*, February 21, 2021, "*China pone en marcha un plan para manipular las nubes y lluvias del país*" - China launches a plan to manipulate the country's clouds and rainfall). Beijing has declared its aspiration to achieve "global climate control" by 2025, a goal that has sparked international fears of a potential "weather war," given the risk of regional imbalances, such as droughts in neighboring countries that could see reduced precipitation. China already demonstrated the effectiveness of this technology during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, manipulating the climate to prevent rain and ensure clear skies during ceremonies, a technical achievement that also raised suspicions about the extent

of its capabilities (*Independent*, August 2008, "*How Beijing used rockets to keep opening ceremony dry*").

- **Local Complaints in Spain**

In 2022, *Heraldo de Aragón* reported on 31 complaints filed in Huesca against the use of anti-hail sonic cannons—devices that generate shock waves to disperse storms and protect crops, but which may also induce droughts by disrupting the local hydrological cycle (*Heraldo de Aragón*, July 6, 2022, article titled **"***Deshacer tormentas a cañonazos: 31 denuncias en Huesca por el uso de sistemas antigranizo***"** - Blasting storms away: 31 complaints in Huesca over the use of anti-hail systems). Spanish Water Law prohibits these practices without state authorization, yet their continued use has sparked tensions between farmers and affected communities. In Huelva, *La Voz del Sur* reported in 2022 on anti-hail rocket operations that dispersed clouds, preventing not only hail but also much-needed rainfall—raising concerns among residents about the loss of water resources (*La Voz del Sur*, September 23, 2022, article titled **"***Denuncian 'bombardeo' de nubes con productos químicos en Huelva para que no llueva***"** - Cloud 'bombing' with chemicals in Huelva to prevent rain is denounced).

• Military History of Geoengineering

Operation Popeye: Weather Warfare in Vietnam. Between 1967 and 1972, during the Vietnam War, the United States carried out Operation Popeye, a secret cloud-seeding program designed to flood enemy supply routes along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The operation extended monsoon seasons by dispersing silver iodide into the atmosphere, according to declassified Department of Defense documents. Testimony about Operation Popeye was presented on March 20, 1974, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Oceans and International Environment. This historical precedent shows that geoengineering has not always been a benign tool; its use as a military weapon raises legitimate concerns about its strategic potential today.

• HAARP and Electromagnetic Technologies

The HAARP (High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Program), operated in Alaska by the U.S. Department of Defense, uses high-frequency electromagnetic waves to study the ionosphere. Although its official purpose is scientific—such as improving satellite communications—HAARP may be capable of modifying the ionosphere, influencing local or global weather, and potentially serving as an electromagnetic weapon.

In 1999, the European Commission expressed concern over the secrecy surrounding HAARP and called for greater transparency. That same year, the European Parliament published a report titled "*Resolution on Environment, Security and Foreign Policy*," which explicitly referenced HAARP. The program was described as capable of altering the ionosphere using high-frequency radio waves, potentially causing significant climatic and ecological effects. Concerns were raised about HAARP creating holes in the ionosphere, which could compromise protection against cosmic radiation.

The Parliament requested that HAARP be subject to international evaluation by STOA (Scientific and Technological Options Assessment) and proposed a global convention to prohibit the development of weapons that could manipulate the environment or human beings. However, there is no conclusive evidence that HAARP manipulates climate on a large scale or causes health damage.

- **Corporate Influence**

Funding by Gates in geoengineering programs has sparked conflicts. Forbes estimated a $100 billion market by 2030 (*Forbes*, 2023, "*The $100 Billion Geoengineering Market by 2030*"). Key development areas include carbon capture and storage, solar radiation modification, ocean fertilization, and cloud seeding. Startups and investment funds are betting on solutions such as stratospheric aerosol injection and marine biomass sinking. The article highlights that this industry is attracting both startups and tech giants, with carbon credits expected to be a major source of revenue.

- **Risks and Controversies**

The World Meteorological Organization warns that cloud seeding can generate cross-border effects, such as reduced precipitation in neighboring regions, altering natural climate balances (*WMO Bulletin*, 2017). A 2009 report by the *Royal Society* pointed out that solar geoengineering, such as stratospheric aerosol injection, could alter global precipitation patterns or even damage the ozone layer, with unpredictable consequences for ecosystems (*Royal Society*, September 1, 2009, report titled "*Geoengineering the Climate: Science, Governance and Uncertainty*").

Analysis

Geoengineering encapsulates the central tensions of this book: a collision between official narratives promising scientific solutions to save the planet and growing public distrust fueled by evidence of manipulation, secrecy, and hidden agendas. The official narrative, promoted by the UN, Harvard, and the IPCC, presents geoengineering as a necessary and responsible tool but minimizes its risks and overlooks its troubling military history. Projects like Operation Popeye, which manipulated monsoons in Vietnam, or China's program aiming for global climate control by 2025, reveal that climate manipulation is not merely an environmental solution; it is a technology with immense strategic potential, capable of altering economies, devastating agriculture, or exacerbating geopolitical conflicts. As *La Vanguardia* noted in 2021, the term "weather war" is not hyperbole when one country can induce rainfall in its territory at the expense of causing droughts in neighbors, destabilizing their resources and security.

A crucial point stands out: the normalization of geoengineering in official documents, such as Spain's *Boletín Oficial del Estado* of 1979 or WMO reports, contrasts with public indifference, reflecting the mental programming explored in Chapter 10. The climate change narrative, dissected in Chapter 7, acts as a powerful catalyst, linking extreme weather events—some possibly induced by

geoengineering—to citizen guilt over carbon dioxide emissions. This strategy, reminiscent of mass manipulation during the pandemic (Chapters 1–6), uses fear as a weapon to justify intrusive restrictions, from carbon taxes that raise the cost of living to proposals for "climate lockdowns" circulating in the media. The claim that 0.0014% of atmospheric carbon dioxide, attributable to human activity, triggers a climate catastrophe lacks scientific proportion but is useful for rationalizing social control measures, such as digital carbon passports or agricultural restrictions that limit traditional food production.

The evidence of geoengineering, from cloud seeding in the Emirates to sonic cannons in Huesca, confirms that climate manipulation is a widespread practice. However, the lack of transparency, such as the secrecy surrounding HAARP, fuels legitimate suspicions of hidden agendas. While there is no conclusive evidence that HAARP manipulates the climate on a global scale, concerns raised by various committees suggest that its potential exceeds its stated scientific objectives (*European Parliament*, 1999, "*Resolution on the environment, security and foreign policy*"). The hypothesis of an "unconventional war" combining technologies like HAARP, biological weapons, and disinformation campaigns resonates with historical patterns of control documented in this book, such as those revealed in the Twitter Files or the censorship of dissenting scientists. Operation Popeye proves that geoengineering has been militarized, and China's program raises inescapable ethical questions: who controls these technologies, for what purposes, and at what cost to humanity?

The risks of geoengineering are undeniable, as warned by the *Royal Society* in 2009, noting that aerosol injection could disrupt global rainfall patterns or damage the ozone layer, exposing humanity to greater risks of ultraviolet radiation (*Geoengineering the Climate: Science, Governance and Uncertainty*). The WMO noted in 2017 that cloud seeding can cause unintended droughts in neighboring regions. These practices, though sometimes authorized, operate with scant public scrutiny, reinforcing the perception that institutions prioritize control over transparency.

The official narrative links geoengineering to climate change, but one must ask: which came first, the problem or the solution? The climate alarmism of Chapter 7 may be a pretext to normalize technologies that consolidate power. Proposals like "climate lockdowns" or digital carbon passports, mentioned at the *World Economic Forum* in 2023, suggest a digital control system reminiscent of pandemic restrictions (Chapter 6). The reduction of livestock farming in Europe, justified by the "carbon footprint," and the promotion of foods like insects fit into a food control agenda that transcends environmental protection. Citizens are asking: who controls the climate, and at what cost?

Philosophical Reflection

Geoengineering, like the climate disinformation unraveled in Chapter 7, robs us of the clarity needed to act with wisdom and purpose. Caring for the planet—

cleaning the oceans of plastics that choke marine life, protecting the forests that breathe like the world's green lungs, reducing pollutants that sicken our communities—is a sacred responsibility we all share. But this mission must not be hijacked by technologies that concentrate immense power in the hands of a few, nor by narratives that transform science into a tool of submission. Official climate activists, with their ardent passion for a fairer and more sustainable world, are the spark that keeps our humanity alive; but their manipulation, their diversion toward causes serving hidden agendas, is a painful warning of how science, when stripped of ethics, can become a sharp weapon against freedom. Can we dream of a future where the climate is an ally that unites us, not a battlefield where invisible wars are waged? Can we imagine a world where technology serves life, nourishing the earth rather than controlling it? The answer lies in our courage to look up at the sky, question who manipulates the clouds that cover it, and demand a truth that restores our power to decide our destiny.

Geoengineering, like the virus in Chapter 1 or the censorship in Chapter 10, is a shadow we must illuminate. Ana, Giaever, and thousands of citizens guide us: observe, question, unite. The truth is a fire we ignite together, a fire that clears the sky. As the Old Cuckoo scribbled in *The Great Circus of Clouds*: "The sky belongs to everyone, but only the brave claim it." Each question is a step toward a future where truth, not power, reigns.

Chapter 9: Opinion: The Earth and Us

Reflection on the Climate Narrative

The official narrative on climate change, promoted by governments, media, and international organizations like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has elevated carbon dioxide (CO_2) to the status of the great villain of our era. We are assured that human emissions of this gas are warming the planet at an alarming rate, that polar ice caps will melt, that coastal cities will be submerged under the sea, and that only radical measures—carbon taxes, strict regulations, and drastic changes to our way of life—can save us from catastrophe. This story, accompanied by dramatic images of chimneys spewing black smoke and skies darkened by smog, appeals to fear and guilt, pointing to ordinary citizens—those who drive, heat their homes, or consume energy—as the primary culprits of an imminent disaster. However, this narrative, repeated ad nauseam in headlines and global conferences, is riddled with contradictions, exaggerations, and deliberate silences that point to a purpose beyond science: social and economic control.

Let me be clear: I do not deny that the environment faces serious challenges that demand our immediate attention. Plastic pollution, which floods our oceans and threatens marine life, heavy metals that poison soils and rivers, deforestation that destroys vital ecosystems, and nitrogen oxides from fossil fuel combustion that choke the air quality in our cities are real and tangible problems. I am committed to the need to address them, to clean our world, and to protect its biodiversity. But the climate alarmism focused exclusively on CO_2, presented as a monstrous molecule threatening the very existence of the planet, profoundly distorts reality. CO_2 is a natural, odorless, colorless, non-toxic gas essential for plant and animal life. Without it, plants could not perform photosynthesis, and the planet's green mass—from tropical forests to the crops that feed us—would collapse. When the media bombard us with images of smoking chimneys or brown smog-filled skies, they are not showing CO_2 but water vapor, nitrogen oxides, or soot particles—visible pollutants that affect respiratory health but are not the crux of the official climate discourse. This visual confusion is not an innocent mistake; it is a deliberate tactic to stoke fear, transform an invisible gas into a tangible enemy, and justify policies that benefit elites while burdening citizens with guilt.

Climate disinformation goes beyond manipulative imagery and is rooted in a history of failed predictions that have eroded the credibility of the official narrative. In 2006, Al Gore, in his documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, dramatically claimed that the Arctic would be ice-free by 2013, a prophecy that did not materialize; in fact, Arctic ice has shown fluctuations but not the predicted collapse, a prediction also echoed by *BBC News* in 2007 ("Arctic summers ice-free 'by 2013'"). Other forecasts, such as massive flooding in coastal cities or an exponential increase in devastating hurricanes, have been contradicted by data showing less alarming trends; for example, NOAA reported in 2023 that hurricane frequency has not significantly increased (*NOAA*, November 27, 2023, "*NOAA is a pioneer in new*

ways to improve hurricane forecasting"). The IPCC's climate models, which predict catastrophic warming tied to CO_2, have consistently overestimated observed temperatures. Despite these failures, the official discourse does not reassess or correct itself; instead of admitting the inherent margins of error in climate modeling, it merely postpones the disaster, maintaining a narrative of perpetual urgency that justifies more regulations, taxes, and economic sacrifices for citizens.

Even more troubling is the systematic silencing of alternative scientific perspectives that challenge or question the dominant role of CO_2. Studies highlighting solar activity as a key factor in climate variations, such as the work of Danish physicist Henrik Svensmark, who has investigated how cosmic rays influence cloud formation and thus global temperature, are ignored or ridiculed by mainstream media and academic institutions (*Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*, 2016, "*Cosmic Rays and Climate*"). Other researchers studying oceanic cycles like El Niño or the *Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation* suggest that these natural phenomena have a significant impact on climate, often greater than that attributed to CO_2 (*Geophysical Research Letters*, 2020, "*Poleward shift of the major ocean gyres detected in a warming climate").* Thousands of scientists, including Nobel laureates like Ivar Giaever and John Clauser, have questioned the official narrative, arguing that CO_2's impact is lesser compared to these natural cycles. *The Global Warming Petition Project*, initiated in 2008, collected signatures from 31,487 scientists, including over 9,000 with PhDs, who reject CO_2 alarmism and demand an open debate. Yet these experts face censorship, loss of funding, exclusion from international conferences, and, in some cases, personal attacks aimed at discrediting them. This repression is not merely an attack on academic freedom; it is a clear sign that the official climate narrative fears scrutiny, a pattern we have seen repeated in the censorship of medical dissent during the pandemic (Chapter 2), or in the marginalization of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. due to his criticism of pharmaceutical companies (Chapter 12).

Climate alarmism is not a mere scientific error; it is a tool of power that moves trillions of dollars and reshapes global social and economic dynamics. Carbon markets, valued at $850 billion in 2023 according to *Bloomberg*, generate colossal revenues for investors and corporations betting on "green" technologies subsidized by governments (*Bloomberg,* 2023, article titled *"Global Carbon Markets Reach $850 Billion"*). Green taxes, such as those applied in the European Union, collect billions of euros annually, but increase the cost of energy, transport, and essential goods, disproportionately affecting middle and lower classes, as documented by *The Guardian* on November 20, 2023 (article titled *"The Great Carbon Divide"*).

Europe, which contributes only 7% of global CO_2 emissions according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), imposes severe restrictions on its citizens—from fuel taxes to appliance regulations—while countries like China and India, responsible for over 40% of global emissions, face less international pressure to

reduce their carbon footprint (IEA, 2024, *CO2 Emissions in 2023*). This disparity raises a blunt question: if Europe were to disappear overnight, would the supposed climate crisis be resolved? The answer, based on IEA data, is a resounding no. Yet European citizens bear the blame for driving their cars or heating their homes, while industries such as lithium mining for electric vehicle batteries—which devastate ecosystems and exploit vulnerable communities in countries like Bolivia and the Congo—escape media and political scrutiny (*The Washington Post*, 2023, article titled *"How lithium gets from the earth into your electric car"*).

The hypocrisy of the elites leading this narrative worsens the injustice. Attendees of conferences like Davos or COP28, who preach sustainability and demand collective sacrifice, arrive in private jets, emitting more CO_2 in a single trip than the average citizen does in an entire year. This double standard reveals a system that blames diesel drivers, small business owners, or families struggling to pay their electricity bills for "killing the planet," while absolving the true industrial polluters and the elites profiting from the green narrative.

As explored in Chapter 7, this narrative does not prioritize practical solutions—such as reducing microplastics that suffocate our oceans, protecting forests that act as carbon sinks, or cleaning urban air of nitrogen oxides that harm respiratory health—but instead focuses on social control, manipulating guilt and fear to impose regulations that enrich a few at the expense of many.

The most tragic aspect of this narrative is how it deceives well-intentioned people, especially young activists who, driven by noble idealism, block roads, obstruct bridges, or glue themselves to monuments in the name of a mission to save the planet. Organizations like *Extinction Rebellion* or *Fridays for Future* channel this youthful passion, but their actions reflect unconscious manipulation: these activists believe CO_2 represents an existential threat because they have been absorbed by a narrative that exaggerates risks and oversimplifies climate complexity.

Their protests, though disruptive, are a testament to their commitment to a better world, but also proof of how misinformation can turn idealists into pawns of dark interests. Who really funds these organizations? These young people are not willing accomplices of a system that profits from their fervor; they are victims of a narrative that exploits their desire for justice to perpetuate a cycle of fear and control. Their passion is a reminder of the humanity that still pulses in our society, but their deception is a warning of how the purest ideals can be hijacked by agendas that do not represent them.

Citizen's Story: Arturo's Encounter with Nature

A few years ago, while Arturo was walking through a forest on the outskirts of his city, he stopped in front of a centuries-old oak tree. Its branches rose like an embrace toward the sky, its leaves vibrated with the breeze, and the air was so pure that each breath seemed to renew the soul. At that moment, the alarmist

headlines about climate change echoed in his mind: we are told that every car passing on the road, every smoking factory, every daily human act is a stab to the Earth. But there, in the stillness of the forest, nature did not seem fragile or on the verge of collapse. It was powerful, resilient, capable of adapting to centuries of change—frosts that hardened the soil, droughts that cracked the earth, storms that bent branches but did not break its spirit. He wondered: why are we told that an invisible, odorless, non-toxic gas that nourishes this oak and every plant around it is the planet's mortal enemy?

That experience marked the beginning of a personal journey to look beyond the headlines. He searched for answers in scientific studies that the media rarely mention. He discovered research such as those published in *Solar Physics* (2015), which correlate solar cycles—periods of greater or lesser solar activity—with significant variations in global temperature. He read about geological events like the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, 56 million years ago, when CO_2 levels were much higher than today and life, far from disappearing, thrived on a warmer planet. He came across the *Global Warming Petition Project*, an initiative that gathered the signatures of 31,487 scientists, including more than 9,000 with doctorates, who reject CO_2 alarmism and call for open scientific debate. But he also noticed something deeply disturbing: these studies, these dissenting voices, barely appeared in the media. Instead, he saw images of smoking chimneys, headlines blaming citizens for an apocalypse that never arrived, and a deafening silence about the complexity of climate. That oak tree taught him a powerful lesson: nature is a vast and dynamic system, and the truth about climate does not fit into an alarmist slogan designed to generate fear. It was the beginning of his journey to question a narrative that, rather than protecting the Earth, seemed designed to control those who inhabit it.

Analysis

The official climate narrative is a paradigmatic example of institutional misinformation, a phenomenon we have explored in other chapters—from data manipulation during the pandemic (Chapters 1–6) to the media power that shapes public perception (Chapter 10). Its success lies in its deceptive simplicity: CO_2 is the culprit of all climate ills, and humans must atone for their guilt through economic and social sacrifices. But this simplicity hides a network of economic and political interests that benefit elites while burdening citizens with restrictions and costs. Carbon markets, which reached a value of $850 billion in 2023 according to Bloomberg, generate colossal revenues for investors and corporations betting on "green" technologies subsidized by governments. Green taxes, such as those applied in the European Union, collect billions of euros annually but raise the cost of energy, transport, and essential goods, disproportionately affecting middle and lower classes.

The science behind climate change is not monolithic, despite what the official consensus tries to make us believe. While the IPCC insists that CO_2 is the main driver of global warming, alternative studies suggest that natural factors—such

as solar activity and oceanic cycles—have a significant impact, factors that IPCC models often underestimate. The correlation between CO_2 and temperature, which the media present as indisputable causality, is a basic argument used when publishing sensationalist headlines like “Warming increases strokes.” A century ago, no one would have suggested that moving from Girona to Alicante, where the average temperature is 3°C higher, would increase the risk of stroke; yet today, similar claims are made without the necessary scientific rigor, and nothing happens. This manipulation of science is not exclusive to climate; we saw it during the pandemic with retracted studies that promoted official narratives (Chapter 2) and in the censorship of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for his criticism of pharmaceutical companies (Chapter 12).

The silencing of dissenting scientists is another unmistakable sign of institutional misinformation. The *Clintel Declaration* (2023), signed by 1,609 scientists, including Nobel laureates, states that “there is no climate emergency” and criticizes the systematic censorship of alternative perspectives. Scientists like Ivar Giaever, Norwegian physicist and Nobel laureate, or Judith Curry, climate expert, have faced loss of funding, exclusion from academic publications, and personal attacks for questioning the official consensus. This pattern of repression recalls the exclusion of doctors who raised doubts about health policies during the pandemic, a topic we explored in Chapter 2. Science does not advance through imposed consensus or silencing dissent; it progresses through open debate, trial, and error. Ignoring the margins of error in climate models, such as the IPCC’s failures, turns science into a dogma that serves political and economic interests, not truth.

Climate alarmism also exploits human nobility, an aspect I find particularly painful. Young activists, like those from *Extinction Rebellion* or *Fridays for Future*, are manipulated by a narrative that leads them to believe CO_2 will destroy the planet within years. Their passion is admirable, their willingness to sacrifice comfort for a greater cause is a testament to the humanity that still pulses in our society. But their deception is tragic. These individuals, willing to give everything for what they believe is the planet’s salvation, deserve the truth—not to be pawns of a system that profits from their idealism. Admitting that we have been deceived—as I myself have been, many times—is not a defeat; it is an act of courage that frees us to seek real solutions, from reducing plastic pollution to protecting vital ecosystems.

The CO_2 narrative, with its focus on blaming citizens, is a clear example of misinformation designed for control. The hypocrisy of elites who travel in private jets while preaching sustainability, and the censorship of alternative science, suggest that this narrative has less to do with saving the planet and more to do with controlling its inhabitants. As citizens, we must question not only the headlines but the agendas behind them, and seek a truth that honors both nature and our freedom.

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Cuckoo, sitting under a centuries-old oak, watching the blue sky while headlines scream about a climate apocalypse that never arrives. He wonders: is CO_2 the monster they paint, or is the guilt they impose the real threat? Every activist blocking a road, every silenced scientist, every citizen paying a green tax while struggling to make ends meet deserves more than a narrative designed to manipulate. The Earth, with its millennia-long history of ice ages and warmings, is not a fragile victim needing our salvation; it is a vast, resilient, dynamic system that challenges us to understand it, not fear it. As the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Climate*: “The truth is not found in fear but in the questions we dare to ask.”

Climate disinformation robs us of more than truth; it robs us of the ability to act with clarity and purpose. Caring for the planet—reducing the plastics that choke our oceans, protecting the forests that are the Earth’s lungs, cleaning the air in our cities of pollutants that harm health—is a noble responsibility, but it must not be hijacked by alarmism that serves elites. Activists, with their passion and willingness to fight for a better world, are a reminder of our humanity; their deception, a warning of how good faith can be exploited by agendas prioritizing power over justice. Can we build a future where science fosters open debate, not imposed dogma, and where caring for the Earth is an act of freedom, not submission to manipulative narratives? The answer lies in our willingness to question, to admit when we have been deceived, and to seek a truth that honors both nature and ourselves.

Part III: Power and Control

Chapter 10: Media Manipulation and Funding of Narratives

Official Narrative

The media are presented as bastions of truth, fundamental pillars of democracy that inform the public with objective reporting and hold institutions accountable. This narrative, promoted by the media themselves and backed by educational institutions and governments, suggests that journalists, guided by unwavering ethical codes, pursue truth regardless of the consequences, offering an accurate and disinterested reflection of reality. For the average citizen, trusting the media is akin to trusting their own ability to navigate a complex world, to make informed decisions based on verified facts delivered through headlines, reports, and analyses. News channels, prestigious newspapers, and digital platforms position themselves as reliable guides in an era of overwhelming information, promising clarity amid chaos. However, behind this façade of objectivity and public service lies an intricate web of financial, political, and ideological influences that shape what we see, read, and ultimately believe, transforming the media into tools of manipulation rather than beacons of truth.

Evidence

The evidence of media manipulation is overwhelming, spanning from the strategic funding of media by foundations, corporations, and government entities to systematic censorship on digital platforms and biased fact-checking campaigns that reinforce preconceived narratives. These practices, documented in reports, leaks, and independent analyses, reveal a system designed to control public perception, a theme that directly connects with previous chapters on disinformation during the pandemic (Chapters 1–6) and narrative control.

- **Media Funding by External Entities**

Private Foundations: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to prestigious media outlets such as NPR, *The Guardian*, the BBC, and *Le Monde* to fund coverage of global health, education, and development, according to a report by *Columbia Journalism Review*, August 21, 2020, titled "*Journalism's Gates keepers*." The article investigates how the Gates Foundation has provided over 250 million dollars to media outlets and journalistic organizations, including BBC, NBC, Al Jazeera, ProPublica, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, and many others. It raises ethical concerns about how this funding might influence news coverage, especially on topics where the foundation has direct interests, such as global health, education, and development. NPR, for instance, has received millions from the foundation and published numerous favorable articles about its projects. While many outlets

deny that funding affects their coverage, there is a clear trend toward positive and uncritical reporting on Gates and his foundation.

Critics, such as those cited in MintPress News (November 2021), argue that these donations may influence coverage, especially on sensitive topics like vaccines, where beneficiary media outlets tend to avoid criticism of initiatives backed by Gates, such as global vaccination campaigns (article titled "*Bill Gates and Media Control*", "*Documents Show Bill Gates Has Given $319 Million to Media Outlets"*).

Government Entities: Several publications in previous years reported that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Eastern Europe and Latin America with the aim of influencing media narratives, promoting agendas aligned with the geopolitical interests of the U.S. government at the time. However, the funding of narratives was always disguised under a supposedly noble objective of humanitarian aid and, evidently, development assistance in the eyes of the public. Various activists in 2024 highlighted how USAID channeled funds through NGOs to shape public opinion in countries like Ukraine and Brazil, suggesting direct intervention in global media manipulation.

In 2025, following the funding freeze for USAID decreed by the Trump administration, some publications reported on the issue. According to *Latin America Reports*, the freeze affected more than 60 media outlets and journalistic organizations, including networks such as *Distintas Latitudes* and *Red Latam*, which support young and exiled journalists (article titled "*Four ways the USAID funding freeze is impacting in Latin America*"). Logically, institutions that lose funding tend to adopt a less critical stance toward the ultimate goals of the narratives they previously supported in exchange. USAID has historically been a key player in financing independent media in Latin America. On the other hand, some governments, such as those of El Salvador and Mexico, accused USAID of funding opposition groups, which generated tensions regarding its role in the region.

In Spain, a report by *Dircomfidencial* in January 2024 revealed that the government allocated 18 million euros to media advertising campaigns about the pandemic between 2020 and 2021. This investment was managed by the agency WaveMaker without a public tender, which sparked criticism over lack of transparency and potential conflicts of interest, as the beneficiary media outlets barely questioned government policies during the pandemic. Atresmedia: €2.4 million. Prisa: €1.9 million. Mediaset: €1.8 million. El Confidencial: €204,000. Regional media and platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok also benefited (Dircomfidencial, January 2021, article titled "*Así reparte el Gobierno la publicidad institucional (II): las campañas del COVID*" - *This is how the Government allocates institutional advertising (Part II): the COVID campaigns*).

Influential Individuals: Figures such as George Soros have been accused of financing “progressive” causes and shaping media narratives through a network of organizations like *Open Society Foundations*. Soros has invested in media and

NGOs to promote specific agendas—from immigration to climate change—thus influencing journalistic coverage in Europe and the U.S. Although these accusations often come from conservative sources, several published analyses confirm that *Open Society* funded media projects in EU countries, raising questions about editorial independence.

Las Repúblicas (December 8, 2022) published an article titled "*Un estudio revela la relación de Soros con 253 medios de comunicación" (A study reveals Soros's connection to 253 media outlets*), based on research by the *Media Research Center*. The report claims that Soros has financial ties to at least 253 media organizations worldwide, potentially allowing him to exert influence over millions of people. *The European Conservative* (April 17, 2025) published an analysis titled "*Who's Really Pulling the Strings in Portuguese Politics and Press?*", which alleges that Soros funds entities such as the *Poynter Institute* and the *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists*, which collaborate with Portuguese outlets like *Expresso*. The article suggests that this funding network may condition media coverage and favor specific ideological agendas.

Latin America: In Mexico, Artículo 19 (2022) documented smear campaigns against journalists such as Lydia Cacho, who exposed opaque pharmaceutical contracts and faced threats and online harassment (Artículo 19, August 2022, report titled "*La impunidad y negación ante la violencia extrema contra la prensa persiste" Impunity and denial in the face of extreme violence against the press persist*). Also see *Artículo 19* (March 2023), "*Mexico: Voices Against Indifference.*"

- **Censorship on Digital Platforms**

As revealed in The Twitter Files, under pressure from Pfizer and U.S. agencies, Twitter censored truthful content about natural immunity and vaccine side effects. A notable example was the suspension of accounts citing peer-reviewed studies, such as those mentioned in Chapter 3. In Spain, YouTube accounts that questioned health protocols were also suspended.

- **Allegations of Media Manipulation and Fabrication of False Evidence**

According to *Estrella Digital* (July 3, 2025), in Spain, Judge Santiago Pedraz of the National Court opened preliminary proceedings following a complaint filed by businessman Javier Pérez Dolset, who accuses media and political figures such as Antonio García Ferreras (journalist at Atresmedia), Mauricio Casals (executive at Planeta and Atresmedia), and José Manuel Villarejo (former police commissioner) of forming a "mafia clan" dedicated to fabricating false evidence and manipulating judicial and media processes. According to the complaint, this group allegedly acted in a coordinated manner to harm individuals such as Pérez Dolset, Pablo Iglesias, and Xavier Trias, employing strategies involving crimes such as criminal organization, bribery, document falsification, influence peddling, and money laundering. The complaint includes recordings and documents suggesting collusion between media outlets, companies, and police forces,

highlighting how media manipulation can be financed and executed through power networks to distort reality and harm opponents.

This point not only underscores the seriousness of the accusations but also directly connects to the issue of media manipulation, showing how media can be used as tools for political or personal ends, financed by specific interests. Moreover, the mention of collusion between media, corporations, and police forces reinforces the idea that false narratives are not mere accidents but the result of deliberate strategies. (*Estrella Digital*, July 2, 2025, "*Pedraz opens proceedings over a complaint accusing Ferreras, Casals, and Villarejo of forming a 'mafia clan' to fabricate false evidence.*")

Analysis

Media manipulation, orchestrated through strategic funding, censorship on digital platforms, and biased fact-checking campaigns, is a documented source of disinformation that undermines public trust in the media and institutions. Although the intentions behind these practices may vary—from protecting public health during a crisis to advancing political or economic agendas—the result is devastating: a fractured society, unable to distinguish truth from propaganda, a phenomenon directly connected to the polarization described in Chapter 2 and the pandemic censorship in Chapters 3 and 4.

Media funding by foundations such as Bill Gates' or entities like USAID not only raises conflicts of interest, but also turns media outlets into vehicles for predefined narratives, such as promoting vaccines without questioning their limitations or amplifying climate alarmism, a topic explored in Chapter 7.

Censorship on digital platforms, revealed by the Twitter Files, shows how the power of big tech can be co-opted by governments and corporations to silence dissenting voices, even when those voices offer fact-based perspectives. The suppression of debates about natural immunity or vaccine side effects, as detailed in Chapter 4, did not protect society but instead fueled distrust, creating a vacuum that alternative narratives—often less reliable—quickly filled. Biased fact-checking campaigns reinforce this problem by presenting themselves as impartial arbiters while prioritizing certain ideologies, a pattern reminiscent of the censorship of the lab-leak hypothesis in Chapter 1.

Media manipulation is not an exclusively Western phenomenon. In countries like Romania, Moldova, and Georgia, the organization EPDE has documented patterns of electoral manipulation and illegally funded disinformation on social networks. In Latin America, the censorship of journalists such as Lydia Cacho in Mexico reflects a global system that prioritizes control, an echo of the hidden power described in Chapter 14.

The impact goes beyond headlines. Distrust in the media (Pew Research Center, 2023, report titled "*Americans' Trust in Scientists, Positive Views of Science Continue to Decline*") fuels polarization and extremism (Chapter 2). The censorship exercised over RFK Jr. (Chapter 12) and distractions (as we will see

in Chapter 17) do not protect; they divide. But resistance is growing: accounts like @JVinos_Climate, which dismantle climate alarmism, share data on X, while citizen movements challenge the media monopoly.

"How do we escape this circus, Old Man?" I asked, looking at his notes full of headlines. "With questions," he replied, scribbling. "The media are puppeteers, but your doubts are scissors. Seek the data, unite with others, light your flame. The truth is not on their screens; it's in your courage." His voice was a beacon, reminding me of the power of free thought (Chapter 16).

Story of a Citizen: Ana's Resistance

Imagine Ana, a 35-year-old journalist in Santiago, Chile, in 2021. Her desk is covered with reports: EUDRA Vigilance, studies on ivermectin, mortality data. She worked at a local newspaper, but when she proposed investigating opaque pharmaceutical contracts, her editor stopped her: "It's not the time." Ana persisted, citing press publications. She was fired. On X, she shared her findings, but trolls attacked her: "conspiracy theorist," "traitor." Her mother stopped speaking to her, fearing her "radicalism"; her friends isolated her. Loneliness consumed her, and nights were filled with doubts: was it worth it? But a message on X from a nurse changed everything: "Your thread saved my family." Ana collaborated with activist accounts, organizing virtual talks. Her apartment became a refuge where neighbors analyzed data and shared stories of lost loved ones. In 2023, when *The Lancet* validated natural immunity (*Natural SARS-CoV-2 infection-induced immune protection against re-infection*), no one apologized, but Ana had found her purpose. Her courage, like Clara's (Chapter 17), was a spark of the luminous future (Chapter 19).

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Cuckoo, sitting in a forgotten café, leafing through headlines that repeat the same phrases, the same prefabricated truths, while his notebook fills with questions no one answers. The waiters look at him with disdain, passersby murmur that he's crazy, but he knows the truth does not live in headlines or fact-checkers who decide what is worthy of belief. Every news story funded by foundations, every censored tweet, every narrative shaped by dark money is a brick in the wall separating humanity from clarity. Media manipulation not only distorts our understanding of current events; it undermines trust in the institutions that rely on accurate information to function, leaving society trapped in a labyrinth of clashing narratives.

As citizens, we face a monumental challenge: discerning truth in a world where words are weapons and the media, often, mercenaries in the service of hidden interests. The solution is not simple, but it begins with critical skepticism, seeking primary sources, and committing to open dialogue that embraces diverse perspectives, even the uncomfortable ones. Only through this approach can we aspire to an informed, resilient, and truly free society, capable of resisting the

currents of manipulation that threaten to sweep us away. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote, “is not a prize to be claimed; it is a fire ignited by questions.” In a world where narratives are bought and sold, our power lies in our courage to question, to seek, to illuminate the shadows where truth awaits.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, think of Ana, her loneliness, her courage. Think of the times a headline made you doubt your instincts. The media are a Goliath, but you have a slingshot: your curiosity. Seek the data, follow accounts like @JVinos_Climate, build your network. The truth isn’t on TV; it’s in you. Are you ready to write your story?

This dance of the media, turning truth into spectacle, is a tool to protect elites. As we will see in Chapter 13, the networks of power, from Epstein to opaque pharmaceutical contracts, rely on this media circus to operate unseen, a game where the public is the pawn and truth, the victim.

Chapter 11: Institutional Corruption and Public Health

Official Narrative

Public health institutions, from the World Health Organization (WHO) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and national health ministries, are presented as unassailable pillars of the common good, beacons of knowledge guided by science and dedicated to protecting human life above any other interest. These organizations assure that their decisions—from drug approvals to the implementation of vaccination policies or pandemic management—are based on rigorous evidence, transparent processes, and an unwavering ethic. For the average citizen, trusting these institutions is trusting medicine itself, in the promise that experts, with their degrees and credentials, prioritize collective health and well-being over any other consideration. The media reinforce this narrative, presenting these entities as infallible guardians that act with altruism in times of crisis, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, behind this façade of integrity and public service lies a system where corporate, political, and financial interests have infiltrated decision-making, distorting the truth and fueling a distrust that resonates with the previous chapters of this book.

Evidence

The evidence of institutional corruption in public health is overwhelming, driven by conflicts of interest, opacity, and collusion between governmental and corporate actors, generating disinformation campaigns that have shaped public perception and compromised medical decision-making. The evidence, from official data to leaks, testimonies, and independent analyses, reveals a pattern of manipulation that erodes trust in the institutions that should protect us, connecting with themes of censorship (Chapter 10) and hidden side effects (Chapter 4).

- **Pharmaceutical Payments to Healthcare Professionals**

The U.S. *Open Payments* database, managed by the *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),* reported in 2024 that pharmaceutical companies paid 13 billion dollars to doctors and hospitals in 2023, including fees for consulting, conferences, and drug promotion (*CMS*, 2024, annual report titled "*Open Payments Data"*).

In Spain, a *Farmaindustria* report revealed that pharmaceutical companies disclosed 600 million euros in payments to healthcare professionals in 2022, intended for activities such as training and advising (data exposed by the AAJJM, December 2023, "*Los pagos a profesionales y organizaciones sanitarias: el mercado de pulgas de las multinacionales farmacéuticas*" - *Payments to healthcare professionals and organizations: the flea market of pharmaceutical multinationals*).

A study in *The BMJ* (September 20, 2023) found that doctors receiving these payments tend to prescribe more drugs from sponsoring brands, though not

always improperly, raising ethical concerns *("Pharmaceutical industry payments and delivery of non-recommended and low value cancer drugs: population based cohort study"*). This study analyzed data on pharmaceutical industry payments to oncologists in the U.S. and their relation to prescribing non-recommended or low-value drugs. The authors suggest that these payments can negatively influence treatment quality and increase the use of costly drugs without additional clinical benefit.

An investigation by *The BMJ*, published on October 23, 2024, "*Pharma pours millions into the NHS for non-research work—but we don't know what the money is being spent on*," revealed that pharmaceutical companies paid over 156 million pounds to NHS hospitals in the United Kingdom between 2015 and 2022, without clearly detailing the purpose of these payments. Most payments were not linked to research but to activities like training, consulting, or events. The *Disclosure UK* system was questioned for its transparency, as many hospitals do not acknowledge the reported amounts or explain their use. International experts call for stricter legislation, similar to the U.S. *Sunshine Act*, to ensure these payments do not generate conflicts of interest.

Transparency International Global Health, in a 2023 report, warned that the lack of strict regulations in many countries, especially in public procurement, medical training, and payment transparency, exacerbates the risk of conflicts of interest, allowing medical decisions to be influenced by financial incentives. It highlights that approximately 7% of global health spending—about 560 billion dollars annually—is lost to corruption and fraud. It also notes that corruption in the health sector can be a matter of life or death, affecting access to drugs, care quality, and public trust in health systems. *Transparency International* proposes strengthening transparency in medical supply chains, promoting ethical regulation in the relationship between doctors and pharmaceutical companies, and empowering civil society and the media to monitor public health spending.

These payments, although legal in many cases, fuel the perception that medical recommendations may be compromised—a concern that reinforces the distrust described in Chapter 3 regarding vaccines.

- **Manipulation of Scientific Studies**

History offers clear examples of how corporate interests have distorted science. In the 1960s, the sugar industry funded studies to downplay the risks of sugar and blame fats for heart disease, according to an analysis in *JAMA Internal Medicine* (November 2016), titled *"Sugar Industry and Coronary Heart Disease Research: A Historical Analysis of Internal Industry Documents."* The study reveals that the *Sugar Research Foundation* (SRF), precursor to the *Sugar Association*, funded a 1965 scientific review published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that blamed fats and minimized the role of sugar in heart disease. The SRF set the study's objectives, selected the articles included, and received drafts, but did not disclose its involvement or funding. The study concludes that the sugar industry actively influenced the scientific debate,

diverting attention from sugar as a risk factor. This case is considered a paradigmatic example of how commercial interests can distort science.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 250 study retractions were reported due to falsified data, often linked to commercial or political pressures, according to *Monash University*, October 2022, *Retraction inaction: How the pandemic has exposed frailties in scientific publishing.* The most prominent case was the study published in May 2020 by *The Lancet*, which claimed that the use of hydroxychloroquine increased the risk of death in COVID-19 patients. The study was quickly challenged by the scientific community due to lack of transparency in the data, which came from the company Surgisphere. The authors were unable to complete an independent audit of the data, and the article was retracted on June 4, 2020. The *Lancet* study was cited by governments and the WHO before being retracted, demonstrating the impact of rushed publications. It was found that 90% of citations after the retraction did not mention that the study had been withdrawn, perpetuating misinformation. The pandemic exposed weaknesses in the scientific publishing system, including pressure to publish quickly and lack of rigorous controls.

A post by @SharylAttkisson in February 2025 highlighted concerns from universities about a "corrupt pipeline" between pharmaceutical companies and research centers, where funding determines the published results. This manipulation not only distorts public health policies but also generates deep distrust in the integrity of the scientific process.

- **Systemic Corruption and Revolving Doors**

The interconnection between public institutions and the pharmaceutical industry is evident in the "revolving doors" that allow officials to move between government and corporate roles. *STAT News* (April 2025), in its article *"With FDA in turmoil, the 'revolving door' with industry is spinning faster"*, revealed that up to 600 drug reviewers at the FDA have recused themselves from approval processes because they are interviewing with pharmaceutical companies. The situation has intensified under the administration of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who promised to eliminate conflicts of interest. The article highlights how job pressure and budget cuts have accelerated the departure of employees to the private sector, undermining regulatory independence.

The BMJ (May 2024), in its report titled *"Revolving doors: board memberships, hedge funds, and the FDA chiefs responsible for regulating industry"*, examined how 9 of the last 10 FDA commissioners ended up working for the pharmaceutical industry. Cases such as Robert Califf, who received millions as an advisor to biotech companies, and Margaret Hamburg, who held financial interests in an investment fund betting on companies regulated by the FDA, are analyzed. The article denounces that these practices erode public trust and that current ethical regulations are insufficient to prevent conflicts of interest.

In Spain, a report by *The Objective* published on June 14, 2024, reveals that 10% of external advisors to the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical

Devices (AEMPS) received payments from pharmaceutical laboratories in 2022. In total, 31 experts received more than one million euros in "value transfers," including training activities, conferences, and consulting services. These advisors participate in decisions on the safety, efficacy, and funding of medicines. The report was prepared by the Asociación Acceso Justo al Medicamento (AAJM) and raises concerns about conflicts of interest and lack of transparency. Some of the experts were also part of the Advisory Committee for the Financing of Pharmaceutical Benefits of the SNS, intensifying the debate on impartiality.

- **Corruption Schemes in Mask and Vaccine Contracts**

In Spain, investigations into mask schemes during the pandemic have revealed a deeply rooted pattern of institutional corruption. The Koldo case, involving former minister José Luis Ábalos and his advisor Koldo García, uncovered a scheme of illegal commissions for mask contracts, with implications for the government and private companies (*El País*, March 3, 2024, article titled *"Hechos probados: de cómo el virus de la corrupción alcanzó al Gobierno" - Proven facts: how the virus of corruption reached the Government*). The article details how Koldo García, former advisor to minister José Luis Ábalos, allegedly facilitated multimillion-euro contracts for mask purchases during the pandemic, benefiting businessmen such as Juan Carlos Cueto and Víctor de Aldama. Crimes under investigation include bribery, influence peddling, money laundering, and membership in a criminal organization. García's assets increased significantly between 2020 and 2022, with cash income lacking apparent justification. The case has implicated other PSOE figures.

In 2025, the UCO expanded these investigations. On July 8, 2025, *El Independiente* published an extensive report titled *"La investigación de la UCO resucita las compras de mascarillas de Adif a la trama Koldo" - UCO investigation revives Adif's mask purchases linked to the Koldo scheme*, detailing how the UCO reactivated the investigation into Adif's purchase of 5 million masks in 2020, awarded to the company *Soluciones de Gestión SL*, linked to businessman Víctor de Aldama. The search of Isabel Pardo de Vera's home, former president of Adif, revealed internal documents confirming the emergency contract. Digital evidence such as a laptop, a USB drive, and handwritten notes were also seized. The National Court is investigating possible crimes of embezzlement, influence peddling, bribery, malfeasance, and criminal organization. Pardo de Vera is scheduled to testify as a defendant on July 21, 2025.

- **Imposition of the COVID Passport in Spain**

During the pandemic, Spanish health authorities imposed the COVID passport in some autonomous communities as a requirement to access restaurants and gyms, despite the technical report from the Interterritorial Health Council advising against it. This measure, described as an unprecedented restriction of freedoms in a democracy and lacking technical justification, was denounced for its lack of scientific evidence and for having previously informed a judge in writing that such a report did not exist, constituting a possible legal fraud. The Liberum Association managed to expose this situation, revealing that administrations denied the

Superior Courts of Justice access to the Council's report. The main objective appeared to be promoting vaccination through covert coercion, according to the report, which listed as advantages of the COVID passport the increase in vaccination and the creation of social awareness of infection risk. However, the same technical report highlighted the following drawbacks:

- There is no evidence that this measure has any effect on reducing COVID transmission.
- The COVID passport does not reflect a person's immune status, as it suggests that being vaccinated equals being immune, which is not accurate; we know that 40% of vaccinated individuals are susceptible to infection and transmission.
- The use of the passport could lead to relaxation of hygiene measures by assuming the person is immune when they are not, potentially increasing infections.
- The vaccination coverage achieved in Spain does not justify the cost or implications of this measure.
- Situations of inequity could not be avoided.
- If COVID incidence continued to rise as expected, the passport would generate more distrust in public institutions.

Various legal actions are underway, and from a critical perspective, the underlying messages in this case suggest motivations that go beyond public health.

• Motion of Censure Against Ursula von der Leyen for Lack of Transparency in Vaccine Procurement

At the European level, the opaque vaccine contracts negotiated by Ursula von der Leyen have been subject to judicial scrutiny. In 2024, the General Court of the European Union annulled the European Commission's decision to keep parts of the contracts with Pfizer secret, raising concerns about transparency (*El País*, "*La investigación judicial a Von der Leyen por la compra de vacunas, suspendida hasta después del proceso electoral europeo"* - The judicial investigation into Von der Leyen over vaccine procurement suspended until after the European elections"). The Commission maintained institutional silence on the case.

In 2025, Von der Leyen faces legal proceedings over alleged irregularities in these negotiations, with evidence of unrecorded communications and possible conflicts of interest. These cases resonate with Chapter 10, which illustrates how corruption intertwines with institutional power, protected by opacity and media silence.

On July 7, 2025, the European Parliament voted a motion of censure against the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, for her refusal to publish the conversations she held with Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, during the negotiation of COVID-19 vaccine purchases. This motion, detailed in a July 2025 article by *20minutos* ("*Von der Leyen afronta hoy una moción de censura que sirve como primer gran toque de atención a su gestion"* - Von der Leyen

faces a motion of censure today, serving as the first major warning about her leadership"), emerges as a first major warning about her management and reflects concerns over the lack of transparency in a process involving billions of euros in public funds.

The refusal to disclose these communications has been interpreted as a possible sign of institutional corruption, raising questions about accountability in critical public health decisions and fueling suspicions of conflicts of interest between the European Commission and Pfizer.

This case highlights how opacity in the management of public health resources can erode trust in institutions and underscores the intersection between institutional corruption and the handling of global health crises. The news also directly connects with the themes of institutional corruption and public health, showing how lack of transparency can be perceived as a corrupt act that undermines confidence in institutions.

Analysis

The official narrative presents public health institutions as bastions of impartiality and scientific rigor, but the evidence paints a much murkier picture, where corporate and political interests have corrupted decision-making. Pharmaceutical payments to professionals compromise the objectivity of medical recommendations, while the manipulation of studies distorts the scientific basis of policies, a problem that resonates with the retraction of over 250 COVID-19 studies, such as the hydroxychloroquine study in Chapter 2. The disinformation in vaccination campaigns, amplified by the censorship of legitimate debates about side effects, has polarized society, turning reasonable questions into perceptions of cover-up, a theme that connects with media censorship in Chapter 10.

Systemic corruption, evidenced by the "revolving doors" described in this chapter, points to a structural problem that transcends isolated incidents. Why does this corruption persist? The pressure to maintain public trust and protect the economic benefits of the pharmaceutical industry, which represents billions in annual revenue, seems to outweigh the commitment to transparency. During the pandemic, the censorship of debates about side effects, such as myocarditis, and the delay in publishing clinical trial data perpetuated a convenient lie, a phenomenon seen in Chapter 3.

This does not imply that public health institutions lack merits. They have led medical advances that have saved many lives. However, disinformation arises when conflicts of interest are hidden and dissenting voices are silenced. The lack of accountability, as in the case of Spanish advisors with pharmaceutical ties, reinforces the perception that public health is a business before a service. As the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*: "Health is not sold in bottles, but trust is lost in secrets." The truth requires a system that prioritizes accountability over control.

Story of a Citizen: Diego's Awakening

Imagine Diego, a 47-year-old lawyer in Bogotá, in 2022. He investigates opaque vaccine contracts in his country, inspired by the Congressional report (Chapter 5). "This is not an error; it's a system," he thinks. Despite threats, Diego files a public lawsuit, uniting citizens in local forums. In 2025, his case inspires Ana (Chapter 3). "We don't want chaos; we want clear accounts," he says. The Old Cuckoo said it: "The truth cuts like a scalpel."

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Cuckoo, sitting on a park bench under a gray sky, leafing through reports of million-dollar payments to doctors while kiosk headlines praise pure and disinterested science. He whispers to himself: "The truth is not in the degrees; it's in the contracts no one reads." Every doubting patient, every mother questioning a vaccine's safety, every citizen feeling betrayed by institutions deserves clear answers, not silence or excuses. Institutional corruption not only harms bodies with misinformed policies; it fractures faith in those who promised to care for us, leaving scars on the collective soul.

Transparency is not an abstract ideal; it is a sacred pact with humanity, a commitment to treat people as beings worthy of truth, not as pawns in a game of power and profits. Can we dream of a future where public health is a beacon of truth, not a business wrapped in shadows? As citizens, our power begins in the questions we dare not ask, in the relentless pursuit of a science that serves life, not dominates it. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote, "is the authority that gives us the courage to challenge those who silence." In a world where institutions can be bought, our responsibility is to ignite that fire of questions, illuminating the path to a society that heals, united by honesty and justice, not divided by the secrets of the powerful.

The corruption that allowed opaque contracts and cover-ups is not just a failure; it is a system. In Chapter 12, we will explore how the censorship of voices like RFK Jr. protected these networks, silencing those who dared to question the lies that sustain institutional power.

Chapter 12: RFK Jr.: Crusader or Controversial?

Official Narrative

In traditional media, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (RFK Jr.), the current Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) of the U.S. government, is frequently portrayed as an anti-vaccine activist and a propagator of conspiracy theories, a marginal figure who has placed himself on the fringes of scientific consensus with his questioning of vaccines and health policies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was accused of sowing distrust by questioning the safety of vaccines, government mandates, and the intentions of pharmaceutical companies, earning him censorship on platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. In Spain, his presence in the media is practically nonexistent, relegated to an almost absolute silence that reinforces the perception that his ideas are dangerous or simply unworthy of debate. Major newspapers, such as *El País* or *La Vanguardia*, and networks like RTVE, have chosen to ignore him, presenting his activism as a foreign phenomenon without local relevance. However, in the United States, RFK Jr. has emerged as a deeply polarizing but influential figure, especially after his appointment as Secretary of HHS in 2025. For his followers, he is an indefatigable crusader against corruption in the pharmaceutical and food industries, a defender of truth who challenges the elites that control official narratives with an iron fist. This dual narrative—villain for some, hero for others—poses a crucial question that resonates at the heart of *Disinformation*: is RFK Jr. a freethinker exposing uncomfortable truths, or a provocateur whose claims, sometimes deemed unfounded, fuel confusion and disinformation?

Evidence

RFK Jr.'s work spans decades, from his role as an environmental lawyer fighting river pollution to his activism in public health, but his role during and after the COVID-19 pandemic has placed him at the epicenter of debates about truth, censorship, and institutional power. Below are the key pieces of evidence from his actions, statements, and the context in which he operates, based on verified reports, interviews, official data, and analyses of his impact.

- **Criticism of Pharmaceutical Corruption**

RFK Jr. has repeatedly denounced the conflicts of interest that, according to him, permeate regulatory agencies like the FDA and CDC, arguing that they are captured by the pharmaceutical industry, a theme addressed in Chapter 11. In his book *The Real Anthony Fauci* (2021), he accused pharmaceutical companies of prioritizing economic benefits over public health, pointing out how key figures like Anthony Fauci allegedly facilitated this collusion. In 2025, as Secretary of HHS, RFK Jr. promised to “clean up corruption” in health agencies, citing a 2009 report that, according to him and with some inaccuracies, revealed that 97% of members of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) had financial conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical companies (*NPR*, May 15,

2025, article titled "*RFK Jr. stands by deep cuts to health budget during contentious hearings"*). However, this *NPR* analysis found that these claims exaggerated the findings, as the declared conflicts—such as academic collaborations—did not necessarily imply direct corruption. Despite this criticism, his denunciations have resonated deeply among those who distrust institutions, as seen in numerous posts on X in 2024 praising his "courage" against *Big Pharma*, a theme that connects with Chapter 11 on institutional corruption. The FDA receives a significant portion of its budget from fees paid by the pharmaceutical industry, especially through the User Fees program. In recent years, it has been reported that more than 40% of the FDA's budget comes from these fees, raising concerns about its regulatory independence. While this practice is legally established, critics argue that it can create conflicts of interest, especially in the approval of new drugs.

- **Research on Autism**

RFK Jr. has focused much of his activism on studying the rise in autism rates, which in the U.S. affect 1 in every 31 children, according to the CDC in April 2025, report titled "*Prevalence and Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 4 and 8 Years — Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 16 Sites, United States, 2022*."

In his book *Thimerosal: Let the Science Speak* (2015), he suggested that the mercury-based preservative thimerosal, used in some vaccines, could be linked to autism. This article was retracted in 2011 due to factual errors, and numerous studies—such as those reviewed by the *Journal of Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics* in 2010, article titled "*Thimerosal in pediatric practice*"—have refuted any connection between thimerosal and autism. In 2023, RFK Jr. reiterated in a Fox News interview that "autism comes from vaccines," a claim rejected by experts who criticized his "disregard for evidence." However, in 2025, RFK Jr. launched a database using Medicare and Medicaid records to investigate environmental causes of autism—an initiative that has gained support among concerned parents but skepticism from scientists, according to *Forbes*, April 10, 2025, article titled "*RFK Jr. Promises To Identify Cause Of Autism By September — What To Know About His Claim*." This contrast reflects the tension between his intentions and scientific rigor; or between the clash of his intentions and the funding of dominant narratives?

- **Censorship and Media Silence**

During the pandemic, RFK Jr. faced significant censorship that turned him into a symbol of resistance for some and a threat for others. In 2021, his Instagram account and that of his organization, *Children's Health Defense* (CHD), were removed for spreading "misinformation" about COVID-19 vaccines. The "Twitter Files" (2022–2023), published after Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter, revealed that the platform—under pressure from government agencies and pharmaceutical companies—suppressed RFK Jr.'s posts about vaccine side effects, even when backed by data such as those reported by VAERS.

In Spain, coverage of RFK Jr. has been virtually nonexistent, with outlets like El País and RTVE ignoring his actions—unlike in the U.S., where media such as CNN and Politico have covered his nomination as Secretary of HHS with a mix of criticism and analysis (CNN, November 27, 2024, article titled "'*Drastic and terrible impact': What Kennedy's confirmation as HHS secretary could mean for global health"*; *Politico*, February 13, 2025, article titled "*RFK Jr. is confirmed as HHS secretary. What now?").* This media silence in Europe reinforces the perception of selective censorship—a central theme in Chapter 10 on media manipulation.

• Food Policy and Public Health

RFK Jr. has extended his activism to criticizing ultra-processed foods (UPFs) and additives such as food dyes, arguing that they contribute to obesity, autism, and other chronic diseases. In October 2024, he stated on X that UPFs "are driving the obesity epidemic in the U.S."—a claim partially supported by a study in The BMJ (2024) that linked UPFs to health problems (The BMJ, February 28, 2024, article titled "*Ultra-processed food exposure and adverse health outcomes: umbrella review of epidemiological meta-analyses*").

As Secretary of HHS, RFK Jr. proposed in 2025 to eliminate nutrition departments within the FDA, claiming they have failed to protect children, and to restrict the use of food stamps for purchasing sodas and ultra-processed foods. These proposals have received bipartisan support, especially among critics of the food industry's influence, but have also been questioned for their feasibility and potential impact on low-income populations.

• MAHA Report and Errors

In May 2025, RFK Jr. published the report "*Make America Healthy Again*" (MAHA), which denounced issues in food, pesticide use, and drug regulation in the U.S. The report cited over 500 studies, but an analysis by NOTUS found that seven of them did not exist, prompting HHS to issue corrections (NPR, May 29, 2025, article titled "*White House acknowledges problems in RFK Jr.'s 'Make America Healthy Again' report*"). Although HHS spokesperson Andrew Nixon described the report as "historic" for its focus on preventive health, critics emphasized the need for greater rigor in RFK Jr.'s claims.

• Vaccine Reform and ACIP

In 2025, RFK Jr. announced a complete restructuring of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), declaring: "Today we take a bold step to restore public trust by fully reconstituting ACIP. A total cleanup is needed to reestablish confidence in vaccine science." This measure, supported by Dr. Marty Makary, FDA Commissioner, aims to base vaccine approvals on "hard data, not pharmaceutical lobbying" (The Hill, June 15, 2025, article titled "*How Kennedy's overhaul could make vaccines more expensive*").

Makary criticized the idea of perpetual boosters, stating: “We’re not going to blindly approve vaccines for teenagers every year. The theory that a young girl needs 50 or 60 booster doses is unproven” (Fox News, July 2025, article titled “FDA vaccine official restricted COVID vaccine approvals against the advice of agency staff”). On the other hand, Nature (2025) warned that these reforms could delay vaccine approvals, affecting responses to future pandemics (Nature, July 10, 2025, article titled “*Unmet needs in vaccine development*”).

- **Interview with Tucker Carlson**

In a Tucker Carlson interview with RFK Jr. about vaccine injuries and the VAERS system, he revealed that VAERS—used by the CDC to record adverse vaccine events—captures less than 1% of vaccine injuries due to its voluntary and cumbersome design, which discourages doctors from reporting. A CDC-funded study in 2010, led by Dr. Lazarus, developed an automated injury-counting system using cluster analysis, which detected an injury rate of 2.7% (1 in every 37 vaccines), contrasting with VAERS’s underreported data. However, the CDC shelved this system, opting to maintain VAERS despite knowing its flaws—suggesting a deliberate resistance to improving transparency about vaccine risks.

- **Funding Cut to GAVI**

In June 2025, as Secretary of HHS, RFK Jr. announced that the U.S. government would stop funding GAVI, the vaccine alliance, accusing it of supporting COVID-19 misinformation spread by the WHO. In a message on X, he condemned GAVI for working with the World Health Organization during the pandemic to pressure social media platforms and censor free speech. This decision, which cancels a $1.58 billion funding pledge made by the previous administration, reflects his commitment to reforming global health policies and restoring public trust. However, as expected, this measure has been criticized by global health experts, who warn of the negative impact on childhood immunization programs in low- and middle-income countries.

Analysis

The case of RFK Jr. encapsulates the central tensions of *Disinformation*: the struggle between official narratives and dissenting voices, and the challenge of discerning truth in a world where corporate interests, censorship, and polarization distort reality. His criticism of pharmaceutical corruption, backed by data such as *Open Payments* (2024), touches on a valid point: conflicts of interest in agencies like the FDA and CDC, documented in Chapter 11, have eroded public trust. His denunciation of Big Pharma’s influence on health policies—such as the FDA’s funding by pharmaceutical companies—resonates with the frustration of millions who feel that institutions prioritize profit over health, a theme connected to Chapter 3 on vaccines.

His detractors argue a contradiction in his discourse—partial truths mixed with unfounded speculation—which complicates his legacy, turning him into a figure

who sheds light on real problems but sometimes obscures them with exaggerated rhetoric. His followers, deeply distrustful of institutions after the pandemic, are willing to give him the benefit of the doubt, while his critics see him as a public health risk for promoting debunked ideas.

The censorship RFK Jr. faced, evidenced by the "Twitter Files" and the removal of his social media accounts, reflects a broader effort to control public discourse—a topic addressed in Chapters 2 and 10. In Spain, the media silence surrounding his actions reinforces this narrative of selective censorship, suggesting that the media choose which stories to amplify and which to bury—a pattern that echoes the media manipulation described in Chapter 10. This contrast between U.S. coverage, where his nomination as Secretary of HHS made headlines, and the informational void in Europe underscores how media elites shape public perception—a central point of this book.

The MAHA report, despite its methodological flaws, represents an ambitious attempt to address real issues, such as the impact of ultra-processed foods and pesticides on public health. His proposals as Secretary of HHS—such as eliminating FDA departments or restricting food stamps—have garnered support among those seeking radical reform, but also criticism over feasibility and potential unintended consequences, such as the impact on vulnerable communities. The restructuring of ACIP, backed by Makary, aims to restore trust, but risks like delays in vaccine approvals concern experts. This illustrates a recurring dilemma: dissenting voices can illuminate hidden truths, but risk polarizing if not grounded in robust evidence—a challenge RFK Jr. still faces.

RFK Jr. is a case study in how institutional power reacts to challenge. His nomination as Secretary of HHS has legitimized his ideas but also intensified criticism, with more than 17,000 doctors signing a letter in 2025 opposing his appointment due to his anti-vaccine history. However, his ability to mobilize a base that distrusts elites—as seen in the exponential growth of Children's Health Defense—shows that his message resonates in a post-pandemic context of disillusionment, a phenomenon connected to the polarization described in Chapter 2.

As the Mad Old Man wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*: "When institutions silence a man, it's not always because he lies; sometimes, it's because he says what they don't want you to hear." RFK Jr. embodies this tension: a crusader who exposes uncomfortable truths about institutional corruption, but whose rhetoric can sometimes veer into speculation, risking his credibility.

"Is he a hero or a madman, Old Man?" I asked, looking at his notes on RFK. "Neither," he replied, scribbling. "He's a man who asks what others fear. Some answers hit the mark; others get lost. But truth doesn't need heroes—only brave questions. Follow his, but with your own eyes."

Story of a Citizen: Sofía's Struggle

Imagine Sofía, a 38-year-old nurse in Buenos Aires, in 2022. Her hospital was full of patients, but the strict guidelines through rigid protocols unsettled her. She read RFK Jr.'s *The Real Anthony Fauci* and began questioning vaccination mandates. Sofía wrote a thread on X about side effects she saw in her ward, citing VAERS. Her account was suspended; her colleagues labeled her "anti-vax." Her sister stopped inviting her to family dinners, fearing her "radicalism"; her partner doubted her judgment. Loneliness consumed her, and nights were filled with tears and questions: was she crazy for doubting? But an anonymous message on X changed everything: "Your thread gave me courage to ask." Sofía joined a group of nurses on Telegram, sharing data from the press. They organized talks in her neighborhood, analyzing opaque pharmaceutical contracts. In 2025, when Makary questioned perpetual boosters, Sofía felt a spark of validation. Her struggle, like Lucía's, was a glimmer of the luminous future (Chapter 19).

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Cuckoo, sitting in a forgotten corner of a library, leafing through the MAHA report with a worn pencil, underlining criticisms of ultra-processed foods. His neighbors label him a dreamer, his friends murmur that he's crazy, but the data he finds—the conflicts of interest in the FDA, the media silence in Spain, the censored accounts on networks—do not lie. Every child diagnosed with autism, every family doubting vaccines for lack of clear answers, every citizen ignored by the media deserves more than the derogatory label of "conspiracy theorist." The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote, "is the authority that gives us the courage to challenge the powerful."

The story of RFK Jr. forces us to confront an essential question: what does it mean to be a crusader in an era where disinformation and censorship intertwine like shadows in a dark alley? His struggle against pharmaceutical corruption and his defense of the marginalized are acts of courage that illuminate the cracks in a system that, as seen in Chapter 11, often prioritizes profit over health. But some of his claims remind us that truth requires rigor, not just passion. In a world where institutions have failed—from pandemic errors to the cover-up of conflicts of interest—we need voices that challenge the status quo, that shake the structures of power and demand transparency. But we also need discernment to separate facts from speculation, to avoid falling into the trap of polarizing narratives that divide rather than unite.

As citizens, our power lies in our ability to listen carefully, question courageously, and demand accountability. Can we honor RFK Jr.'s spirit—his willingness to confront pharmaceutical and media giants—without succumbing to the simplifications he sometimes offers? That is the question that defines our path to truth, a path that demands humility, patience, and an unwavering commitment to facts. In a world where elites control narratives, as seen in Chapter 10, the

search for truth is an act of resistance, a beacon guiding toward a society that heals, united by clarity and justice, not fractured by fear or silence.

The silencing of freethinkers like RFK Jr. is a tactic to maintain narrative control. As we will see in Chapter 17, absurd conspiracies, amplified by the media, act as smokescreens, diverting attention from the truths these dissenters try to illuminate.

Chapter 13: Networks of Power: Epstein and Beyond

Official Narrative

Jeffrey Epstein, a financier accused of trafficking minors for sexual purposes, took his own life in a prison cell in August 2019, closing, according to the official narrative, a dark but isolated chapter in the chronicle of modern scandals. The media and authorities have presented his case as the aberration of an individual predator, a man whose wealth and connections allowed him to operate on the margins of the law, but whose death brought an end to the investigation. Theories suggesting broader networks of power, institutional implications, or deliberate cover-ups are dismissed with disdain, labeled as baseless conspiracies, the product of paranoid minds that see intrigue where there is only tragedy. For the average citizen, this narrative is reassuring, almost comforting: Epstein was an exceptional case that does not reflect systemic failures in the structures of power. Accepting this simplistic version means preserving faith in institutions, in the idea that justice, though sometimes slow, ultimately prevails. However, behind this façade of closure and resolution lies an intricate web of influences connecting powerful figures, opaque agreements, and maneuvers designed to limit the public exposure of deeply uncomfortable truths, a theme that resonates with the institutional corruption explored in Chapter 11 and the media manipulation discussed in Chapter 10.

Evidence

The case of Jeffrey Epstein is not merely the story of an isolated criminal but a disturbing example of how networks of power protect their own through the suppression of information, the manipulation of public perception, and institutional complicity. The evidence, from declassified court documents to recent revelations, whistleblower leaks, and patterns similar to other cases, suggests a systematic cover-up that transcends a single individual and points to a structural problem within global elites.

- **Protected Connections**

An investigation by *Vanity Fair* in 2023 revealed court documents and whistleblower testimonies detailing Epstein's connections with high-profile figures in the worlds of finance, politics, entertainment, and even intelligence services (*Vanity Fair* compiled all its reports on this case in the publication titled *Toda la información sobre Jeffrey Epstein en Vanity Fair España* [All the Information about Jeffrey Epstein in Vanity Fair Spain], 2025). These documents show that confidentiality agreements and out-of-court settlements silenced victims and restricted the disclosure of prominent names, backed by elite law firms that worked to minimize public scrutiny. A post on X by @TheIntelSCIF on May 8, 2025, highlighted a report based on undercover journalism presenting evidence that high-profile figures engaged in sexual activities with minors facilitated by Epstein, potentially reopening legal cases in the United Kingdom. These

connections, including figures such as Bill Clinton, Alan Dershowitz, and Wall Street executives, indicate that Epstein did not operate as a lone wolf but as a node in a network of influence protected by power, a theme that connects with the systemic corruption discussed in Chapter 11. A *Law&Crime* report from June 2023 noted that several of Epstein's victims received multimillion-dollar payments in exchange for their silence, raising questions about who financed these agreements and for what purpose (*Law&Crime*, June 23, 2023, article titled "*Inside JPMorgan's $290M sex-trafficking settlement: What it means for Jeffrey Epstein survivor"]).*

- **The 2008 Agreement**

An analysis by the *Miami Herald* in February 2024, titled *The public should see Epstein's grand jury record*, documented how federal prosecutors, led by then-U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta, downplayed evidence of a sex trafficking network to negotiate a lenient sentence that allowed Epstein to avoid serious federal charges. This *Miami Herald* editorial called for the release of the 2006 grand jury records related to Jeffrey Epstein. It notes that, despite federal prosecutors having prepared an extensive indictment based on more than 30 victims, Epstein secured a lenient deal approved by Alexander Acosta, which allowed him to serve only 13 months in jail with special privileges. The article supports a legislative proposal in Florida that would permit the disclosure of these sealed records, arguing that their release is crucial for restoring trust in the judicial system and understanding how the case was mishandled. Declassified emails show close coordination between prosecutors and Epstein's legal team to avoid media attention, enabling him to continue operating for years after his release. This agreement, which included immunity for potential co-conspirators, raises troubling questions about institutional complicity and privileged access to the judicial system. A *Bloomberg* article in 2023 confirmed that JPMorgan retained Epstein as a client until 2013, despite red flags about his activities, reinforcing the perception of institutional protection (*Bloomberg News*, June 12, 2023, article titled "*JPMorgan Agrees to Pay $290 Million to Settle Epstein Case*". The bank agreed to pay 290 million dollars to settle a class-action lawsuit filed by victims who alleged that JPMorgan profited from Epstein's sex trafficking network. While the bank did not admit liability, it acknowledged that its association with Epstein was a mistake and expressed regret.

- **Declassified Court Documents**

In January 2024, Judge Loretta Preska of the Southern District Court of New York ordered the release of nearly 3,000 pages of documents related to a civil lawsuit filed by Virginia Giuffre against Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's associate and accomplice. These documents, reported by *El País* (2024), include witness statements, emails, and legal briefs mentioning figures such as Prince Andrew and Bill Clinton, though they do not directly implicate all individuals in criminal activity (*El País*, January 4, 2024, article titled *Guía para entender la lista de Epstein: los 40 documentos, uno por uno* [Guide to Understanding the Epstein List: The 40 Documents, One by One]). While not a "client list," more than one

hundred names are mentioned in various contexts: as victims, witnesses, employees, or tangentially related individuals. The report clarifies that the appearance of a name does not imply guilt and highlights the complexity of interpreting the documents without falling into disinformation.

In February 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice released the "Phase I" of declassified files, including flight logs from Epstein's private plane and a redacted address book attributed to Epstein and Maxwell, according to *Proceso* (*Proceso*, February 27, 2025, article titled *EU libera 'Fase I' de los archivos desclasificados sobre Jeffrey Epstein: esto es lo que contienen* [U.S. Releases 'Phase I' of Declassified Files on Jeffrey Epstein: This Is What They Contain]). Although many of these files were already in the public domain, their official release aims to reinforce transparency. The files also include a list of masseuses with redacted sections and an inventory of over 150 seized items, such as explicit images and sex toys. The release was announced by Attorney General Pam Bondi as part of an institutional commitment to exposing the network of sexual abuse linked to Epstein. These records confirm connections with global elites, but extensive redactions limit their clarity, fueling speculation about what remains hidden.

- **Interrogations and Silence**

In a 2016 interrogation, declassified in January 2024, Epstein invoked the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution more than 500 times, refusing to answer questions about allegations of abuse, according to *El Mundo*, January 10, 2024, article titled *Sale a la luz la última tanda de documentos sobre Epstein* [The Latest Batch of Epstein Documents Comes to Light]. This article revealed a 130-page transcript of Jeffrey Epstein's 2016 interrogation, in which he invoked the Fifth Amendment over 500 times, avoiding questions about sexual abuse and other matters. The release is part of 4,500 pages of court documents declassified by order of a New York court, in the context of a defamation lawsuit filed by Virginia Giuffre against Ghislaine Maxwell. The documents also mention figures such as Bill Clinton, Prince Andrew, and various businesspeople and include testimonies from victims like Sarah Ransome, detailing patterns of abuse and manipulation.

Ghislaine Maxwell, during her trial, also evaded key questions, according to *France24*, January 5, 2024, article titled *Desclasifican nuevo lote de 29 documentos del caso Epstein* [New Batch of 29 Epstein Case Documents Declassified]. This article reports on the release of 411 pages of court documents related to the Jeffrey Epstein case, as part of the defamation lawsuit filed by Virginia Giuffre against Ghislaine Maxwell. The documents include interrogations of Maxwell, who evaded key questions about her relationship with Giuffre and Prince Andrew, despite photographic evidence. They also reveal testimonies from victims like Jane Doe, who claims she was sexually exploited by Epstein with Maxwell's complicity from the age of 15 and was used to secure favors from powerful figures. Judge Loretta Preska ordered the declassification, considering that much of the information was already public knowledge.

- **Connections with Elites**

The declassified documents of 2024 confirm that Epstein socialized with figures such as Bill Clinton, who flew on his private plane, and Donald Trump, mentioned in connection with parties at Mar-a-Lago, though a victim denied Trump's involvement in abuses.

- **Hidden Files and Suppressed Evidence**

In 2025, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi announced that the FBI is reviewing Epstein's files, including tens of thousands of videos related to child pornography and the exploitation of minors. A whistleblower from the FBI, cited by @RealAlexJones on March 4, 2025, revealed that 14 terabytes of Epstein-related material remain hidden in FBI offices in New York, suggesting a deliberate cover-up to protect influential figures. While these claims require verification, a *The New York Times* report in 2024 confirmed that the FBI seized thousands of documents and recordings from Epstein's properties, but only a fraction has been made public (*The New York Times*, February 2024, article titled *What Is Known About the New Declassified Epstein Documents*). The possibility that some of this evidence has been destroyed or withheld raises fears that the full truth may never come to light, a theme that resonates with the media censorship discussed in Chapter 10.

- **Testimony on Trafficking of Migrant Minors**

In June 2025, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. testified before the U.S. Congress that the Biden administration handed over migrant children to "random adults" using empty parking lots filled with containers as "false addresses" without identifying the children. He added that the same adults collected children from different groups, using new and false identifications, and that pickup locations included a strip club. This controversial statement suggests a pattern of negligence and possible institutional complicity in the trafficking of minors, aligning with the cases of systemic abuse discussed in this chapter. While RFK Jr. is a polarizing figure, his congressional testimony highlights the need for a thorough investigation into these practices, especially in the context of protecting corrupt power networks.

- **Beyond Epstein: NXIVM and Savile**

Other cases reinforce the existence of abuse networks protected by power. NXIVM, a cult led by Keith Raniere, was convicted in 2019 for sex trafficking, extortion, forced labor, and abuse of minors, with connections to elites such as Clare Bronfman, heiress to Seagram's, who financed its activities (*The New York Times*, October 2020, article titled *"Keith Raniere, Leader of Nxivm, Is Sentenced to 120 Years in Prison*" [Keith Raniere, Leader of NXIVM, Is Sentenced to 120 Years in Prison]). Activists highlighted similarities between NXIVM and Epstein, noting how both networks exploited their influence to evade justice for years. The trial revealed that NXIVM operated as a criminal organization disguised as a self-help group, with a secret structure called DOS, where women were branded with Raniere's initials and forced into sexual relationships. Among its collaborators

was Clare Bronfman, who financed the group's activities and was also convicted. The case exposed how NXIVM recruited celebrities, businesspeople, and influential figures under the guise of personal development.

The case of Jimmy Savile, a British presenter exposed posthumously in 2012 as a serial pedophile with ties to royalty and politicians, shows a similar pattern of institutional protection (*Netflix/BBC*, April 2022, miniseries titled *Jimmy Savile: A British Horror Story*). This two-part documentary miniseries examines the life of British presenter Jimmy Savile, who was considered a national icon for his television work and philanthropic activities. After his death in 2011, numerous allegations of sexual abuse surfaced, triggering one of the largest scandals in UK history. The documentary shows how Savile evaded investigations for decades thanks to his connections with political, medical, and media elites, and how institutions like the BBC failed to act on warning signs.

These cases, beyond Epstein, reveal a structural problem where power protects the guilty while victims are silenced.

Analysis

The official narrative reduces the Jeffrey Epstein case to an individual drama, an aberrant chapter closed with his death, but the evidence points to a far more unsettling reality: a network of influences spanning institutions, media, and legal systems, designed to protect elites and minimize the exposure of their misdeeds. The cover-ups—from the 2008 agreement that granted immunity to co-conspirators to the suppression of 14 terabytes of evidence, as alleged by FBI whistleblowers—suggest an institutional complicity that goes beyond negligence and enters the realm of deliberate protection. The FBI's review of Epstein's files in 2025, with tens of thousands of potentially explosive videos, could expose further connections, but the possibility that key evidence has been destroyed, as feared by @RealAlexJones, raises a devastating question: Who decides which truths deserve to be revealed? The implication of figures like Prince Andrew, documented by @TheIntelSCIF, and bankers like Jes Staley, linked to JPMorgan, reinforces the idea that Epstein was a node in a broader network, not an isolated criminal, a theme that connects with the institutional corruption of Chapter 11.

Beyond Epstein, cases like NXIVM and Jimmy Savile reveal a recurring pattern: abuse networks operating with impunity, protected by media silence, opaque legal agreements, and the influence of elites. The amplification of conspiracy theories acts as a smokescreen, diverting attention from verifiable facts—such as court documents implicating prominent figures—and discrediting those seeking legitimate answers, a mechanism that resonates with the media manipulation described in Chapter 10. The media's self-censorship and limited coverage in Spain perpetuate impunity by presenting the Epstein case as a closed episode rather than a symptom of deep structural problems. This silence is not accidental; it is a control mechanism that prioritizes the stability of power

over justice for victims, a theme that connects with the censorship of dissenting voices in Chapter 12 on RFK Jr.

The central question is not whether Epstein acted alone, but why institutions worked so hard to make it appear so. The 2008 agreement, which protected potential co-conspirators, the FBI's reluctance to disclose full files, and the drastic reduction in media coverage suggest a coordinated effort to limit damage to elites. The implication of financial institutions like JPMorgan, which retained Epstein as a client despite red flags, and the protection of figures like Savile by the BBC for decades indicate that these networks are not exceptions but part of a system where power protects itself. As citizens, we face a monumental challenge: accept the official narrative, which offers comfort but ignores the evidence, or dig deeper, knowing that the truth may be uncomfortable, painful, and potentially transformative. The review of Epstein's files in 2025 could be a turning point, but only if public pressure forces institutions to act with transparency, a challenge that resonates with the struggle for accountability described in Chapter 11.

Citizen's Story: Clara's Search

Imagine Clara, a 27-year-old law student in Buenos Aires, in January 2024. Sitting at her desk, she reads in the press about Epstein's declassified documents, with names like Clinton and Prince Andrew. Something does not add up: Why do so few face consequences? Clara investigates on X, following @AlertaMundoNews, and finds testimonies from victims like Virginia Giuffre. "This is not just a case," she thinks, "it's a system." She shares a thread on X, connecting the documents with investigations into local elites. Trolls attack her: "conspiracy theorist," "exaggerated." Her family tells her, "Drop it, it's dangerous." But Clara does not give up. At her university, she organizes a debate on power networks, citing *The New York Times* and *Proceso*. In 2025, her group grows, collaborating with activists in Spain and Mexico, demanding transparency. Clara, like María in Chapter 1, does not seek fame; she seeks justice. Her search, like a beacon, illuminates others, connecting with the resistance we will see later.

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Madman, sitting in the dim light of his study, surrounded by yellowed newspaper clippings and court documents, whispering to himself: "Do not trust the headlines, trust the documents. The former lie; the latter whisper truths that power fears." Each line he reads—about silenced victims, secret agreements, hidden recordings—is a reminder that power does not only corrupt; it weaves networks of shadows where the guilty hide, and victims are relegated to oblivion. The Epstein case, like those of NXIVM and Savile, is not just a tragedy; it is a warning that the institutions meant to protect us often serve those who control them. Every exploited girl, every ignored complaint, every file buried

in an FBI office is a cry that demands to be heard, a reminder that justice does not come on its own.

The truth, in a world where elites shape narratives, is an act of resistance. Questioning the official version of the Epstein case—that one man acted alone, and his death resolved everything—is not falling into paranoia but honoring the victims who deserve justice, not silence. As citizens, our power lies in our courage to ask, to investigate, to not fear ridicule or the label of "conspiracy theorist." Can we build a world where power is held accountable, where victims are heard before the powerful, where transparency is a principle and not an exception? The answer depends on us, on our willingness to light a beacon of truth amidst the circus of distractions that elites have perfected. As the Old Madman wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Headlines*: "The truth is not found in the applause of the masses, but in the whisper of the documents that no one wants to read." In a world of shadows, our courage to seek that whisper defines the future: a path toward justice or a perpetuation of silence.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, imagine you are at Clara's desk, surrounded by documents that whisper uncomfortable truths. Every name you ignore, every question you avoid, is a choice. The Epstein network is not a closed case; it is a challenge to your courage. Take a moment: read the documents in *El País*, follow @AlertaMundoNews on X, search in *Proceso*. You do not need to be a hero; you need to be curious, like Clara. Hold your debate, share a thread, demand justice. The truth is a fire you ignite with your doubt. Are you ready to unravel the threads of power?

The networks of abuse and power, as revealed by Epstein, thrive in the darkness that the media and institutions protect. In Chapter 17, we will uncover how the invisible game of power, manipulating from the shadows, connects these real conspiracies with the distractions that keep us blind.

Chapter 14: International NGOs: Altruism or Hidden Agenda

Official Narrative

International non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been presented as beacons of hope in a turbulent world, tireless defenders of human rights, sustainable development, and humanitarian aid. From *Amnesty International* to *Save the Children*, these organizations proclaim their commitment to the most vulnerable, operating in global crises with an image of neutrality and goodness. The media reinforce this narrative, highlighting their work in war zones, natural disasters, or health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments and international bodies, such as the UN, fund and legitimize them, asserting that their independence guarantees impartial solutions where states fail. Questioning their altruism is seen as an attack on global solidarity, a cynical stance that ignores the suffering they alleviate. However, behind this façade of nobility, unsettling shadows emerge: ties to elites, political agendas, and opaque practices that suggest some NGOs may serve hidden interests more than humanity.

Evidence

International NGOs, though diverse, share an influential role that warrants scrutiny. The evidence, from their history to contemporary cases, reveals patterns of funding, influence, and controversies that challenge their altruistic image, connecting with the themes of power and control explored in this Part III.

- **Historical Origins and Elite Philanthropy**

Modern NGOs emerged in the 18th century, with organizations like the Red Cross (1863), but their expansion solidified after World War II, driven by the UN (1945) and “philanthropists” like John D. Rockefeller.

A note from *Infobae* on March 17, 2025 (“*USAID: the end of the era of promoting U.S. ideals*”) recounts the dismantling of the *United States Agency for International Development* (USAID) under Donald Trump’s government, marking the end of an era in which the U.S. funded NGOs and independent media worldwide to promote ideals, public health, and development. While this massive withdrawal of funds has generated controversy, there is no doubt that these organizations also promote ideals and help shape public opinion. Leaders like Viktor Orbán and Nayib Bukele praise the end of these cooperation and influence networks, while others warn that the withdrawal compromises the defense of rights and freedoms in fragile contexts.

- **Opaque Financing and Ties to Soros**

George Soros, through the Open Society Foundations, has been linked to NGOs promoting migration, human rights, and liberal democracy. In Spain, activist posts point out that NGOs like PARES and CINEP receive funds from

Soros, acting as “pro-establishment.” While there is no direct evidence of control, a report from *El Confidencial* (2018) suggests that Soros’ funding of NGOs in Central Europe generated tensions with nationalist governments, who accused them of political interference (*El Confidencial*, April 10, 2018, article titled “*La ofensiva ‘anti-Soros’ y otras medidas de Orbán para modelar Hungría a su antojo*”- The "anti-Soros" offensive and other measures by Orbán to shape Hungary to his liking).

- **NGOs and Migration: Rescue or Trafficking?**

In the Mediterranean, NGOs like *Médicos Sin Fronteras* (Doctors Without Borders), *Save the Children*, and *Proactiva Open Arms* operate “rescue” boats for migrants. However, in November 2016, the outlet *El Espía Digital* published an article titled “*Las ONGs como cómplices del tráfico a escala industrial de inmigrantes a Europa*” (NGOs as accomplices in industrial-scale migrant trafficking to Europe), based on a report from the GEFIRA group. The report denounced that several European NGOs—such as MOAS, *Médicos Sin Fronteras*, *Save the Children*, and *Proactiva Open Arms*—had allegedly acted in collusion with Libyan mafias, coordinating rescues near or within Libyan territorial waters in collaboration with the Italian Coast Guard, thereby purportedly facilitating human trafficking to Europe. In January 2019, the website *Ojos para la Paz* published an article titled *El lucrativo negocio del tráfico de seres humanos* [The Lucrative Business of Human Trafficking], reiterating GEFIRA’s accusations. It added that these NGOs were allegedly funded by entities such as George Soros’s *Open Society Foundation*, suggesting that their activities have political and economic motivations beyond humanitarian work. Both texts sparked controversy, with the implicated NGOs categorically denying any ties to illegal networks.

In Sapin, 2022, VOX called on the EU to investigate NGOs like *Open Arms* for alleged collaboration with traffickers. Although the Italian Prosecutor’s Office investigated *Save the Children* in 2017 regarding its vessel VOS HESTIA, no definitive charges were filed.

In June 2016, the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe* (OSCE) presented the report *Migration and Trafficking in Human Beings* during an event in Vicenza, Italy. The study warned that mixed migratory flows—comprising refugees and economic migrants—create conditions conducive to exploitation and human trafficking, particularly on migration routes to Europe. The report emphasized that NGOs operating in transit zones may, unintentionally, facilitate the work of human trafficking networks by operating in environments where traffickers exploit migrants’ vulnerabilities. The OSCE urged strengthening states’ capacities to identify victims and prosecute traffickers through specialized training and international cooperation.

- **Child Trafficking and NGOs**

In 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with Harvard University, published a report titled *From Evidence to Action: Twenty*

Years of IOM Child Trafficking Data to Inform Policy and Programming. Based on over 69,000 cases recorded between 2002 and 2021 across 113 countries, the study reveals that 46.6% of child victims were between 13 and 17 years old, and 12.6% were under 2 years old, suggesting that some children are born directly into contexts of exploitation. The report notes that 43.4% of minors were victims of forced labor, and 20.8% of sexual exploitation, with significant involvement of family members and friends as recruiters. Girls were more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, while boys were more susceptible to forced labor. It also highlights that socioeconomic conditions, educational levels, and origins in low-income countries increase vulnerability to child trafficking. NGOs like *Save the Children* work to combat this issue, and there is no direct evidence linking them to child trafficking.

- **Neocolonialism and NGOs**

Issa G. Shivji, in his book *Silences in NGO Discourse. The Role and Future of NGOs in Africa* (*Fahamu Books*, 2007), argues that international NGOs perpetuate neocolonialism by imposing Western development models in Africa, citing cases in Tanzania. He contends that NGOs have been co-opted by donor interests and have contributed, albeit unintentionally, to consolidating neoliberal hegemony on the continent.

In Mozambique, James Pfeiffer (2003) documented how NGOs displaced local healthcare systems, weakening sovereignty (*Social Science & Medicine*, 2003, article titled *International NGOs and primary health care in Mozambique: the need for a new model of collaboration*.

- **Cases of Corruption and Abuse**

In 2018, Oxfam faced a scandal over sexual abuses by its workers in Haiti, according to *The Guardian* (2018, article titled *Oxfam in Haiti: sexual abuse claims after earthquake*). The report revealed that several Oxfam workers in Haiti, following the 2010 earthquake, were accused of hiring prostitutes, some possibly minors, in residences funded by the organization. Oxfam's internal investigation in 2011 concluded that seven employees were involved, with three of them physically intimidating a witness. The scandal triggered a reputational crisis, the suspension of operations in Haiti, and a thorough review of the NGO's safeguarding policies.

In 2021, Amnesty International was criticized for racist labor practices, according to an internal report (*Amnesty International*, May 2021, report titled *Internal Review on Workplace Culture*). The report, based on interviews, surveys, and documentary reviews, concluded that the workplace environment was perceived as "toxic." It documented instances of systemic racism, such as the use of offensive language, microaggressions, and the exclusion of racialized employees from internal processes.

Analysis

International NGOs are not a monolith; some, such as *Médicos Sin Fronteras*, save lives in genuine crises. However, the evidence suggests that others operate in a gray area, where altruism intertwines with political, economic, and geopolitical agendas. Their history, from the Rockefellers to Soros, reveals a pattern: elites use philanthropy to shape the world, as we saw in Chapter 11 with institutional corruption. Soros's ties to NGOs like *Human Rights Watch* or *Proactiva Open Arms*, while legal, raise suspicions when they align with policies of migration or selective democracy, an echo of the soft power discussed in Chapter 10.

The Mediterranean case is emblematic. NGOs like *Save the Children*, accused by GEFIRA of facilitating human trafficking, operate in a context where traffickers exploit their presence, according to the OSCE. Although there is no definitive evidence of complicity, the lack of transparency in their coordination raises doubts. Child trafficking, an atrocious crime, is not directly linked to international NGOs, but cases like the IOM report show how opacity can generate suspicion.

Neocolonialism, as argued by Shivji, is a more robust critique. In Mozambique, NGOs weakened local systems, a pattern that resonates with USAID projects in Latin America. Scandals such as Oxfam's in Haiti or Amnesty International's demonstrate that even the most respected NGOs are not immune to corruption, connecting with Chapter 13 on networks of power. These organizations, while not mafias, operate within a system where power uses them as tools.

The truth about NGOs is not black and white. Some are beacons; others are mirrors reflecting the interests of those who fund them. As citizens, we must question them, not with cynicism, but with the curiosity that guides us in this book. Resistance, as we will see in Chapter 19, begins with an informed doubt, a spark that illuminates hidden agendas.

Story of a Citizen: Kwame's Doubt

Imagine Kwame, a 40-year-old farmer in Tamale, Ghana, in 2023. His village depends on a well, funded by an international NGO, announced on television as a triumph of development. But Kwame notices something strange: the NGO demands they grow soybeans for export, not corn for their community. He reads in a local newspaper that the NGO, funded by a U.S. foundation, prioritizes crops for corporations. On X, activists share a report on agricultural neocolonialism. Kwame asks at a community meeting, but the leader, allied with the NGO, labels him "ungrateful." His neighbors murmur; his wife fears reprisals. Loneliness weighs on him, but an article by James Pfeiffer in *Social Science & Medicine* gives him clarity: NGOs sometimes serve external interests. In 2024, Kwame organizes his village to negotiate with the NGO, demanding local crops. His well continues to flow, but now for his people. His doubt, like a beacon, inspires others, connecting with the resistance we will see later.

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine Kwame, seated beneath a baobab tree, with the reddish earth between his fingers, gazing at the well that should belong to him. Each promise from the NGO, each contract he signs, is a test of his faith in a world that claims to help him. Yet his doubt, like Clara's in Chapter 13, is an act of love for his community, a spark that challenges hidden agendas. As the Old Madman wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Truth*: "The truth is sown in the hearts that doubt." In a world where altruism can be a mask, Kwame teaches us that questioning is building, that truth is the soil where justice grows. His struggle, like that of those who defy power, is a step toward a future where aid does not enslave but liberates.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, imagine you are with Kwame, feeling the earth under your feet, hearing the promises of a better world. Every NGO you applaud without questioning, every aid you accept without doubting, is a choice. The truth is not in the shiny logos; it is in the data you verify. Take a moment: read the UN report, search for information, follow activists on networks. You don't need to be a rebel; you need to be curious, like Kwame. Organize a debate, share an article, demand transparency. The truth is a field you cultivate with your courage. Are you ready to sow justice?

Chapter 15: Electoral Interference and Political Disinformation

Official Narrative

Elections are presented as the unshakeable foundations of democracy, secure, transparent processes meticulously designed to reflect the will of the people. Electoral bodies, governments, and media outlets insist that voting systems are robust, irregularities are minimal exceptions, and accusations of fraud, far from being legitimate, represent a corrosive threat to the democratic order. In Spain, the Central Electoral Board and the Ministry of the Interior guarantee the integrity of every election, ensuring that the results are the faithful reflection of the citizen's voice. In the United States, agencies such as the *Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency* (CISA) have proclaimed that elections, like those of 2020, are “the most secure in history.” For the average citizen, trusting in electoral results is trusting in democracy itself, in the promise that their vote, deposited in a ballot box or sent by mail, counts and the process is fair. However, behind this facade of integrity and trust, political disinformation—driven by coordinated campaigns, technological vulnerabilities, and polarizing narratives—is eroding public faith, putting at risk the legitimacy of electoral processes. In Spain, the complaints from experts like Gabriel Araújo (@GabrielAraujoES) reveal cracks in this official narrative, suggesting that opacity, irregularities, and conflicts of interest may be more common than authorities are willing to admit.

Evidences

Electoral disinformation, fueled by sophisticated manipulation campaigns, technological advances such as artificial intelligence, and accusations of fraud that resonate on social networks, is a growing challenge that threatens democracies around the world. The evidences, from academic reports and international organizations to specific complaints in Spain, show how these forces distort public perception and weaken trust in democratic institutions, a theme that connects with polarization (Chapter 2) and media manipulation (Chapter 10).

- **Disinformation Campaigns in Elections**

The European Union documented in 2023 foreign disinformation campaigns in the European elections of 2019, using bots and fake accounts to amplify polarizing narratives that fostered *Euroscepticism* (European Parliament, October 2023, report titled "*European Parliament resolution of 10 October 2019 on foreign electoral interference and disinformation in national and European democratic processes*").

The Oxford Internet Institute published in January 2025 an analysis on the impact of disinformation in the elections held during 2024 (*A Look Back at the Year of Elections 2024 from a Digital Perspective*). The report documents how more than 70 countries faced informational manipulation campaigns, many of them financed by state and private actors with geopolitical interests. Although a massive use of generative artificial intelligence was feared, the study concludes

that its influence was limited, although *deepfakes* and digital avatars were detected in countries like South Africa and Indonesia. It also highlights the intensive use of *TikTok* by radical parties in Europe and the United Kingdom, and underscores that the effect of disinformation depends on the political and social context of each country.

In Latin America, a post on X by @LupaMediaEC on February 5, 2025, pointed out that 77% of the disinformation in the Ecuador elections focused on attacking candidates, with 6 out of every 10 verified statements being false. In the United States, a post by @committeeonccp on October 8, 2024, revealed Chinese interference in local elections through covert digital campaigns. These campaigns exploit social polarization, amplifying narratives that delegitimize electoral processes and sow distrust, a phenomenon that resonates with the manipulation described in Chapter 10.

- **Technology and Electoral Vulnerabilities**

Electronic voting systems and automated processes present vulnerabilities that fuel doubts about electoral integrity. A CISA report in 2020 confirmed that voting systems like *Dominion* are susceptible to cyberattacks, although this report could not evidence manipulation in the U.S. presidential elections.

This academic study from the *National University of Distance Education* (UNED) from February 2024, titled "*El voto por correo en España y la posible introducción del voto por internet*" (Mail Voting in Spain and the Possible Introduction of Internet Voting), analyzes the challenges of mail voting in Spain between 2020 and 2023. It points out that, although the system has been historically effective and competitive, in the 2023 elections logistical delays and specific suspicions of fraud were detected, especially during the application and delivery process of the vote. Nevertheless, the report discards the existence of systemic fraud, and underscores that the legal and operational guarantees remain solid.

In May 2025, Gabriel Araújo published on X a video where an attorney in Asturias recorded magistrates admitting that they do not perform manual scrutiny, depending exclusively on the computer system managed by the company *Indra*. The magistrates confessed that they only "balance" the results provided by the system without verifying them manually, and Araújo denounced that the results of three districts were ready nine hours before the end of the *CERA* vote (*Electoral Census of Absent Residents*), suggesting a possible predefinition of results. The fact that *Indra* is a private company with a history of corruption accusations raises conflicts of interest.

Vozpópuli, in 2015, published the article "*Indra pagó en negro por orden de Salvador Victoria, según el sumario de la Púnica*" (Indra Paid in Black by Order of Salvador Victoria, According to the Púnica Summary). In it, it details how *Indra* employees would have made cash payments by order of the then councilor Salvador Victoria, within the framework of the *Púnica* plot. The CEO of *Indra* at

that time was cited as indicted, which evidenced possible corrupt practices in the relationship between the company and high officials of the Community of Madrid.

The *National Commission on Markets and Competition* (CNMC) in 2018 published "*Spain CNMC Reports Possible Crimes In Indra's Public Contracts*", where possible serious crimes in public contracts between 2005 and 2015 were pointed out. *Indra* would have participated in the drafting of tender specifications to favor itself illegally, which raises serious doubts about the competition and legality of the public tenders in which it was involved.

Indra in 2019 issued an official statement titled "*Indra Statement regarding Púnica case*". In this statement, *Indra* recognized that it was investigated for the *Púnica* case, but affirmed that the facts occurred before 2015 and that the responsible parties no longer formed part of the company. It also assured having reinforced its crime prevention system as a response to the investigations.

Euractiv in July 2025 published the article "*Indra moves to dominate Spain's defence sector but raises conflict of interest concerns*" in which concerns are exposed about a possible conflict of interests after the merger of *Indra* with *Escribano Mechanical & Engineering*, given that the president of *Indra* is also co-owner of the acquired company. This raises risks for transparency in the state defense sector. These publications confirm that the company has been involved in various corruption investigations and that its role as a state contractor has generated significant controversies.

The article "*Blockchain Technology and Voting Systems*" published by "IEEE Region 5" in November 2024 poses how the lack of transparent audits in electronic systems can erode public trust. It proposes the use of *blockchain* as a solution to strengthen traceability and citizen verification of votes.

- **Accusations of Fraud and Their Impact**

In Spain, Gabriel Araújo reported several cases in 2025 that illustrate local vulnerabilities. In April, he pointed out that the *Civil Guard* confirmed irregularities in mail voting in favor of the *PSOE* in various provinces. In May, he denounced the indictment of the son of the socialist mayor of Hinojosa de Córdoba for alleged vote buying in the elections of May 28. He also highlighted the case of Leire Díaz, a councilor who obtained 500 votes, 133 of them by mail, in a process questioned by the former mayor Víctor Gómez for possible irregularities. In 2023, cases of vote buying in Melilla and Albudeite (Murcia) confirmed local frauds, with arrests reported by Reuters (May 25, 2023, "*Spain rocked by vote-buying scheme ahead of local elections*"). During the campaign for the local elections of May 2023, Reuters reported multiple cases of vote buying in municipalities like Melilla and Albudeite. In Melilla, a suspicious increase in mail voting was detected, which led to arrests of figures linked to the *Coalition for Melilla* (*CpM*), including the son-in-law of its leader and a regional councilor. In Albudeite (Murcia), detentions were also carried out, including the *PSOE* candidate for mayor. The article highlights that the scandal affected parties across the political spectrum and generated calls to suspend mail voting in some localities.

Araújo also pointed out that *Correos* prevented the vote of hundreds of thousands of Spaniards in the general elections of July 23, 2023, by not opening offices the previous weekend, debunking official government announcements. Although the *Central Electoral Board* rejected his expert report, referring it to the *Prosecutor's Office* without immediate action, these complaints fuel the perception of an opaque and vulnerable system, a theme that connects with the media censorship of Chapter 10.

- **Impact of AI and Deepfakes**

Artificial intelligence technology has intensified electoral disinformation, creating new tools to manipulate public perception. Activists have pointed out that *deepfakes* have increased exponentially in the last decade, impacting elections in various countries. In Mexico, @infodemiaMex on June 2, 2024, debunked a false exit poll that went viral, clarifying that the *National Electoral Institute* (*INE*) prohibits such polls, but its dissemination generated confusion among voters.

- **Foreign Interference and Declassified Documents**

Fox News Digital revealed on July 1, 2025, that the FBI declassified internal documents pointing to an alleged plan by the *Chinese Communist Party* to interfere in the 2020 presidential elections in the United States. According to the records, FBI director Kash Patel located and declassified a report indicating that China would have fabricated false driver's licenses to facilitate mail votes in favor of Joe Biden. The material was delivered to Senator Chuck Grassley, chairman of the *Senate Judiciary Committee*, for analysis. However, the report was withdrawn by FBI headquarters in September 2020, just after then-director Christopher Wray declared before Congress that there was no evidence of coordinated electoral fraud. FBI officials expressed concern over the suppression of the report, alleging that it was a politically motivated decision.

The declassification of these documents fuels the narrative that external state actors seek to manipulate elections through disinformation and cyberattacks, exacerbating distrust in democratic processes.

- **Irregularities in Electoral Scrutiny in Spain**

In June 2025, the Segovia court determined that the judge of the electoral board, responsible for ensuring the cleanliness of the electoral process, loses their status as privileged for 'the commission of the crime' after the recording by Pilar Baselga on the non-existence of real scrutiny, and must be judged 'as a civilian'. Magistrate Ignacio Pando Echevarría resigned after learning of the sentence (*La Gaceta de la Iberosfera*, June 2025, report titled "*Acusan al expresidente de la Audiencia de Segovia de cometer delitos electorales durante el escrutinio de las elecciones del 23J"* [They Accuse the Former President of the Segovia Court of Committing Electoral Crimes During the Scrutiny of the Elections of 23J]). This creates a significant precedent, as from now on all judges of the electoral boards will lose their privileged status when they refuse to perform manual scrutiny as dictated by the law. This case, reported on X by @GabrielAraujoES, illustrates the vulnerabilities of the Spanish electoral system

and the opacity in scrutiny, connecting with complaints about the dependence on computer systems managed by companies like *Indra*, whose lack of public audits has been criticized by Araújo and confirmed by *El Cierre Digital* in its article titled "*Transparencia no ejecuta sus órdenes sobre las auditorías de Indra*" (Transparency Does Not Execute Its Orders on the Audits of Indra). This report from May 2024 reveals that the *Ministry of the Interior* did not comply with the order of the *Transparency Council* to deliver information on audits carried out on *Indra* since 2018. The refusal was justified for reasons of security and confidentiality, which has been criticized by experts like Gabriel Araújo, who considers that this opacity puts at risk trust in the Spanish electoral system.

- **Accusations of Fraud in PSOE Primaries**

A report by *Vozpópuli* from June 12, 2025, revealed that the *PSOE* primaries won by Pedro Sánchez were rigged, with testimonies indicating practices like *'put two ballots in without anyone seeing you'* (*Vozpópuli*, June 2025, article titled "*Las primarias del PSOE que ganó Sánchez fueron amañadas: 'Mete dos papeletas sin que nadie te vea'*" [The PSOE Primaries Won by Sánchez Were Rigged: 'Put Two Ballots In Without Anyone Seeing You']). This report reveals that the *Central Operative Unit* (*UCO*) of the *Civil Guard* discovered compromising messages between Santos Cerdán, current secretary of Organization of the *PSOE*, and Koldo García, former advisor to José Luis Ábalos. In a conversation dated July 13, 2014, Cerdán would have instructed García to introduce two ballots into a ballot box without being seen, during the primaries that gave victory to Pedro Sánchez as general secretary of the party. The report, nearly 500 pages, was delivered to the *Supreme Court* and forms part of a broader investigation into alleged irregular awards and links between socialist leaders and construction companies. The scandal has generated strong internal tensions in the *PSOE* and has revived criticisms about the legitimacy of Sánchez's leadership. These accusations erode trust in the internal processes of political parties, a pattern that repeats in other contexts, like the local elections in Spain reported by Araújo. This case illustrates how fraud narratives, even in non-direct electoral processes, amplify the perception of a vulnerable system, fueling public distrust and connecting with the polarization described in Chapter 2.

- **Amplification of Fraud Narratives by Prominent Figures**

In June 2025, former president José María Aznar affirmed on the front page of *El Mundo* that Pedro Sánchez might have stolen the elections, a statement that resonated in public opinion and amplified fraud accusations. Aznar said: "If one is capable of adulterating internal elections in their party, why would they not alter general ones?'". This type of affirmations, although not backed by concrete evidences, have a considerable impact on public perception. The amplification of these narratives by prominent figures like Aznar reinforces distrust in democratic institutions and connects with the media manipulation discussed in Chapter 10.

Analysis

The official narrative that elections are secure and transparent processes does not withstand complete scrutiny when confronted with the accumulated evidences. Global disinformation campaigns—from foreign operations in Europe to the interference of the *Chinese Communist Party* in the United States—demonstrate that electoral manipulation is a sophisticated threat, fueled by bots, *deepfakes*, and polarizing narratives that exploit social divisions, a phenomenon that resonates with the polarization described in Chapter 2. In Spain, the work of Gabriel Araújo (@GabrielAraujoES) provides a local approach that reveals specific vulnerabilities, from dependence on opaque electronic systems to irregularities in mail voting. The confession of magistrates in Asturias, captured on video, that they do not perform manual scrutiny and simply "balance" the results provided by *Indra*, suggests a fragility in the process that could be exploited, although there are no conclusive proofs of systemic manipulation. The lack of public audits raises conflicts of interest that fuel distrust, a theme that connects with the institutional corruption of Chapter 11.

The fraud cases reported by Araújo, such as vote buying in Hinojosa de Córdoba and irregularities in mail voting in favor of the *PSOE*, confirm that traditional manipulation practices persist in Spain. The arrests in Melilla and Albudeite in 2023 show that these incidents, although localized, have a disproportionate impact on public perception, eroding faith in the system. Araújo's complaint about *Correos*, which limited access to voting in the elections of 23J, highlights how seemingly technical administrative decisions can fuel suspicions of fraud, even if there is no proven intentionality.

The lack of media coverage about these accusations in the main Spanish media, in contrast to the attention to international cases, reinforces the narrative of selective censorship explored in Chapter 10. While traditional media ignore figures like Araújo, platforms like X become spaces for dissent, but also for the amplification of unverified narratives, a double-edged sword that complicates the search for truth.

The solution does not lie in silencing doubts, as some governments and media have attempted, but in strengthening transparency: public audits of source code, verifiable manual scrutinies, and secure systems. Only in this way can trust in democracy be rebuilt, ensuring that it reflects the truth and not the manipulation of hidden interests.

Philosophical Reflection

Democracy is more than a system of ballot boxes and ballots; it is a sacred pact of trust between citizens and institutions, a commitment that every voice will be heard. Every *deepfake* that goes viral, every accusation of vote buying, every ballot box questioned by an expert is a crack in that pact, a shadow that threatens to engulf hope.

Araújo's complaints reflect a collective longing for clarity in a system that often seems designed to hide it. But, how do we rebuild trust without falling into the trap of absolute distrust, where every election is a fraud and every institution an enemy? The truth is not defended with silence nor with censorship, but with facts: transparent electoral systems, public audits that any citizen can understand, and a press that investigates instead of ignoring. In a world where electoral disinformation turns the vote into an echo of rumors and suspicions, our responsibility is to demand that every suffrage counts, that every process is verifiable, that democracy is a reflection of the popular will and not a stage manipulated by hidden interests. As *the Old Cuckoo* wrote: “Freedom begins when we stop believing in the circus and start seeking the facts.” Can we build a democracy where the vote is a beacon of hope, not a reflection of the shadows of manipulation? That is the question that defines our future, a challenge that calls us to be not only voters, but seekers of truth.

Electoral fraud, like the one uncovered in Albaida, might not be an isolated fact, but a reflection of the power networks explored in Chapter 13, where elites manipulate systems to perpetuate their control, silencing the citizen's voice.

Chapter 16. Opinion: The Value of Freethinking

Reflection on Official Narratives

In a world where official narratives rise like impenetrable walls, freethinking is a silent act of rebellion, a beacon that illuminates the shadows of manipulation. The *COVID-19* pandemic, as we have explored in previous chapters, was not only a health crisis; it was a trial by fire for our capacity to doubt, to question, to seek the truth beyond headlines. From media censorship (Chapter 10), institutional corruption (Chapter 11), the silencing of voices like *RFK Jr.* (Chapter 12), covert power networks like the *Epstein* case (Chapter 13), to the invisible game of power (Chapter 14) and orchestrated distractions (Chapter 17), we have seen how the *status quo* punishes those who dare to think for themselves.

At the height of the pandemic and in the years that followed, global institutions, from governments to media outlets, presented a monolithic truth as the only path to stability. Questioning official narratives—about elections, health policies, or power networks—was a subversive act, labeled as disinformation that threatened social order. The media, from *El País* to *CNN*, branded dissenters as conspiracists, while platforms like *Twitter*, before 2022, and *YouTube* removed content that challenged the *status quo*, even when it was true. We were urged to accept, to not doubt, under the promise that obedience would protect the common good. But behind this facade of unity, freethinking—the capacity to question with rigor and courage—was punished, silenced, ridiculed, leaving society trapped in a cycle of conformity that concealed uncomfortable truths, such as the networks of corruption and abuse we have explored in this third part of the book.

This chapter, from my voice as an author and with the Old Cuckoo scribbling in the margins, reflects on the risks and rewards of freethinking. It is an ode to those who doubt, who resist ridicule, who know that the truth is not found in the comfort of obedience, but in the courage to ask. In a world of distractions, what does it mean to be a freethinker, and why is it more vital than ever?

Evidences

Freethinking is not a luxury; it is a necessity in a society where power shapes perception to perpetuate its dominance. The evidences, from systematic censorship to the belated validation of dismissed theories, show that questioning the *status quo*, though painful, is the path to truth.

- **Censorship and Pressures on Dissident Voices**

As we saw in Chapter 12, figures like *RFK Jr.* were silenced for questioning vaccines. The *"Twitter Files"* (2022-2023) revealed that *Twitter*, under pressure from pharmaceutical companies and governments, removed critical content, even when based on verified data. In Spain, on January 8, 2025, the outlet *El Criterio* published the article titled "*Manifiesto de Médicos por la Verdad*" (Manifesto of Doctors for Truth), signed by Dr. Natalia Prego and other authors.

The text compiles the demands of this healthcare collective, which denounces institutional pressures and lack of transparency during the management of the *COVID-19* pandemic. This censorship, which connects with Chapter 13, protects power, not truth.

- **Belated Validation of "Conspiracies"**

Many ideas ridiculed as conspiratorial have been validated over time. The laboratory origin of *COVID-19*, dismissed in 2020, was considered plausible by the *FBI* and the *Department of Energy* in 2023, as we saw in Chapter 1. The information about *Hunter Biden*'s laptop, branded as Russian disinformation in 2020, was authenticated by the *FBI* in 2023. An analysis in this book estimates that, so far, 25% of the conspiracy theories dismissed in previous years have ended up being partially or fully true, an echo of Chapter 17 on distractions. These belated validations show that freethinkers, though marginalized, often see what others ignore.

- **Media Manipulation and Stigma**

The media, as explored in Chapter 10, amplify narratives to discredit skeptics. Activists on social networks have pointed out how ridicule on social media reinforces this censorship, a mechanism that protects elites, as in the *Epstein* case (Chapter 13).

- **Amplification of Distractions**

Chapter 17 shows how absurd theories, such as *flat-earthism*, are amplified to delegitimize serious critiques.

A study by *Nature Communications* found that platforms like *Twitter* and *Facebook* prioritized emotionally charged content, which amplified both alarmist official messages and sensationalist rumors (*Nature Communications*, November 20, 2018, article titled "*The spread of low-credibility content by social bots*"). This study, conducted by researchers from *Indiana University* and other institutions, analyzes over 14 million messages on *Twitter* that spread 400,000 articles between 2016 and 2017. The authors found that social bots play a disproportionate role in amplifying low-credibility content, especially in the early stages of dissemination, before articles go viral.

This strategy forces freethinkers to swim against a current of noise, a challenge that connects with Chapter 14.

- **Resistance to Censorship in Power**

In 2021, independent journalists like *Glenn Greenwald* were marginalized for questioning power networks. In this regard, *El País Uruguay*, on October 29, 2020, published "*Glenn Greenwald deja The Intercept acusándolo de censurar artículo sobre Biden*" (Glenn Greenwald Leaves The Intercept Accusing It of Censoring an Article About Biden). *Glenn Greenwald*, journalist and co-founder of *The Intercept*, announced his resignation from the outlet after accusing it of censoring an article of his that included criticisms of then-presidential candidate Joe Biden. According to *Greenwald*, the editors demanded the removal of

passages unfavorable to Biden, which he interpreted as a violation of his editorial freedom. This episode was seen by some as an example of tensions between independent journalism and ideological pressures within the media.

- **Social Cost of Questioning**

Questioning the *status quo* has an emotional cost. In 2021, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* published the article "*Seeking solitude after being ostracized: A replication and beyond*". This study explores how individuals react emotionally to being socially excluded (ostracism). Through three experiments with over a thousand participants, the researchers found that ostracism generates a strong preference for isolation, which can reinforce social conformity. Instead of fostering critical thinking or confrontation, many people choose to withdraw, perpetuating their exclusion and reducing their active participation in public debate. The study supports the idea that social exclusion has an emotional cost that can inhibit dissent.

This harm, which resonates with Chapter 6, is the price of freethinking.

- **Successful Resistance**

Despite the risks, freethinking has achieved victories. Public pressure forced the release of the *"Twitter Files,"* revealing censorship, and led the *FBI* to reconsider the laboratory hypothesis in 2023. In Spain, activists like Gabriel Araújo (@GabrielAraujoES), cited in Chapter 15, exposed electoral irregularities, forcing debates on transparency. A post on X celebrates: "Our questions are changing the game." These victories, though small for now, show the power of questioning.

Analysis

Freethinking is an act of courage in a world that rewards obedience. As we saw in Chapter 14, hidden power weaves narratives to keep us divided and submissive, using the media (Chapter 10), corruption (Chapter 11), censorship (Chapter 12), and distractions (Chapter 17) as tools. The pandemic was a laboratory of control: fear of the virus justified the silencing of doubts, from the origin of *COVID-19* to the side effects of vaccines. Freethinkers, like *RFK Jr.* or *Dr. Luis de Benito*, paid a high price: ridicule, ostracism, harassment. But their resistance, like that of Gabriel Araújo in Chapter 15, or *Javier Vinós* in Chapter 7, demonstrates that questioning the *status quo* is not futile; it is transformative.

The risk of freethinking is real. Stigmatization, as shown by *Personality and Social Psychology*, turns skeptics into pariahs, an echo of *Javier*'s ostracism in Chapter 6. Distractions, like *flat-earth* theories amplified by bots, discredit legitimate critiques, protecting elites. However, the rewards are immense: the truth, though belated, emerges. The laboratory hypothesis, *Hunter Biden*'s laptop, the *"Twitter Files"* are trophies of freethinkers, proofs that doubting official narratives is not madness, but lucidity.

The challenge is to discern truth in a sea of noise. As we will see in Chapter 18, *AI* can be an ally or an enemy in this search. Freethinkers must navigate with rigor: seek primary sources, verify data, resist the temptation of baseless theories. The truth is not found in the applause of the masses nor in the rejection of elites; it is forged in the solitude of questions, in the humility of admitting what we do not know. In a world designed to distract us, freethinking is our most powerful weapon, a beacon that illuminates the path to a fairer future.

Citizen's Story: Lucía's Resistance

Imagine *Lucía*, a 35-year-old librarian in Valencia, in the autumn of 2021. Her desk is covered with notes: newspaper clippings, screenshots from *EUDRA Vigilance*, links to studies in *The Lancet*. *Lucía* is not a rebel; she is a curious woman. When headlines insisted that vaccines were the only way out, she read about myocarditis in young people and thrombosis in adults. She tried to share her doubts in her work's *WhatsApp* group: why do we ignore natural immunity? Why do we censor *ivermectin*? The responses were swift and cruel: "Conspiracist," "irresponsible." Her colleagues stopped inviting her for coffee; her boss suggested she "moderate" her opinions.

Lucía did not seek fame; she sought clarity. She spent nights comparing *Euromomo* data with *Ministry of Health* statements. At family dinners, her brother accused her of "putting everyone at risk." When vaccine side effects began to surface—myocarditis in a cousin, thrombosis in a neighbor—no one acknowledged her prudence. "Coincidences," they said. In 2023, when *The Lancet* validated natural immunity and the *FBI* admitted the plausibility of a lab leak, no one apologized. *Lucía*, like *Javier* in Chapter 6 and *Clara* in Chapter 14, was an ordinary citizen, punished for thinking. But in her solitude, she found strength: every question she asked, every article she shared, was a spark of resistance. In 2025, a small group of neighbors began to listen to her, forming a study circle to analyze official data. *Lucía* was not a heroine; she was a freethinker, and her courage changed her world.

Philosophical Reflection

The Old Cuckoo, sitting in his study, surrounded by notebooks full of questions, scribbles: "Freethinking is not a crime; it is a duty." Every silenced voice, every hidden fact, every ridiculed theory is a reminder that the truth is not given; it is conquered. *Lucía*, like *Javier*, like *Clara*, like those silenced by the game of power, embodies the courage to doubt in a world that demands unquestioning obedience. The pandemic taught us that the *status quo* is not a friend; it is a puppeteer that uses fear, censorship, and distractions to keep us bound.

The value of freethinking lies in its ability to illuminate. The victories of the *"Twitter Files,"* the validation of the laboratory hypothesis, are beacons in the darkness, proofs that questions, though painful, transform. But the path is arduous: ridicule, ostracism, solitude are the taxes paid by the freethinker. As the

Old Man wrote in *The Great Circus of Doubts*: “The truth does not come in headlines; it comes in whispers, and only the brave hear it.”

Discerning the truth requires rigor and humility. Not all theories are true, but dismissing them without examination is as dangerous as accepting them without questioning. As we will see in Chapter 18, *AI* can help us filter the noise, but only if we guide it with informed skepticism. Freethinking is not an end; it is a means to build a world where truth is not a luxury, but a right. In a world of distractions, our mission is to listen to the whispers of truth, unite in doubt, and forge a future where the courage to ask is celebrated, not punished.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, imagine you are in *Lucía*’s library, surrounded by books that whisper uncomfortable truths. Every headline you read, every narrative you accept, is a choice: will you be a pawn of the *status quo* or a freethinker who cuts the strings? The world is full of distractions—sensationalist headlines, absurd theories, censorship disguised as protection—but you have a power that power fears: the capacity to doubt and question.

Take a moment. Think of the times you stayed silent for fear of ridicule, accepted a narrative for comfort. Now, act: read a primary report, verify a fact, share a question. The truth is not a trophy to be displayed; it is a fire ignited by every doubt. Join *Lucía*, *Javier*, *Clara*, those who resist. Form your own study circle, start a conversation, demand transparency. Discerning the truth in a world of noise is not easy, but it is possible: with rigor, with humility, with courage. Are you ready to be a freethinker and change the game?

The courage of freethinkers, like *Lucía*, is a spark in the darkness of censorship. In Chapter 10, we explored how the media, with their dance of manipulated headlines, try to extinguish these sparks, protecting elites while the people struggle for the truth. Freethinking arms us against the distractions that, as we will see in the next chapter, divert our gaze from the future we can build.

Part IV: The Future

Chapter 17: *Unmasking Distraction: The Circus of Conspiracies*

Official Narrative

During the *COVID-19* pandemic, governments, health authorities, and global media presented a unified narrative: disinformation, especially conspiracy theories, was a threat as serious as the virus itself. From the *World Health Organization* (*WHO*) to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (*CDC*), "fake news" spread on social media was identified as the primary cause of resistance to health measures, such as vaccines or lockdowns. Theories about the virus's origin, vaccine side effects, or climate manipulation were labeled as dangerous fantasies, and platforms like *Twitter* (pre-2022) and *Facebook* implemented strict policies to censor them. Mainstream media caricatured "conspiracists" as ignorant or irrational, amplifying absurd stories like *flat-earthism* to discredit any questioning. This narrative suggested that institutions were the guardians of truth, and that conspiracies were marginal distractions that needed to be ridiculed to protect social cohesion. However, the evidence reveals a darker pattern: were absurd theories deliberately amplified to silence legitimate debates, protecting power interests while the public was diverted by a media circus?

Evidences

The amplification of absurd conspiracy theories is not a spontaneous phenomenon; it is a narrative control strategy that diverts attention from serious issues, such as institutional corruption (Chapter 11) or power networks (Chapter 13). From academic reports to revelations on X, the evidence shows how media and digital platforms manipulate public discourse, connecting with censorship (Chapter 12) and geoengineering (Chapter 8). Below are the key pieces of evidence that dismantle the official narrative.

- **Selective Amplification of Absurd Theories**

An article from the outlet *Clarín* (Argentina) in 2023 titled "*Bots, trolls y otros esbirros: el terraplanismo de la democracia*" (Bots, Trolls, and Other Minions: The Flat-Earthism of Democracy) analyzes how bots and automated accounts can amplify extreme ideas like *flat-earthism*, not necessarily to promote them, but to create noise, ridicule critical thinking, and deter dissent. According to the author, Gabriel Zurdo, a technological risk specialist, these strategies aim to generate a false sense of consensus on social media. By grouping legitimate critiques with extravagant theories, an isolating effect is produced on those who question the *status quo*, which can lead to self-censorship or silence. The text also warns about the use of artificial intelligence to replicate viral content and manipulate public debate, affecting the quality of democracy.

A report from the *Oxford Internet Institute*, January 2021, titled "*Industrialized Disinformation: 2020 Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation*" documents how governments, political parties, and private companies used social media to manipulate public opinion during the *COVID-19* pandemic. It identified 81 countries with organized disinformation activity, including campaigns that exploited informational chaos to amplify marginal theories, such as those related to the coronavirus and *5G*. Platforms like *Facebook* and *Twitter* removed over 317,000 accounts and pages between January 2019 and November 2020, but the report notes that the initial visibility of marginal content was part of an algorithmic manipulation strategy before selective censorship measures were applied. The study also highlights the role of private companies offering computational propaganda services, including bots, micro-targeting, and the creation of fake accounts to amplify specific narratives. It is estimated that over 60 million dollars were spent on these campaigns.

El País, on December 16, 2022, published the article titled "*Las noticias falsas son los otros: la desinformación científica preocupa tanto a los conspiranoicos como a los más formados*" (Fake News Is the Others: Scientific Disinformation Concerns Both Conspiracists and the Most Educated). This report analyzed how scientific disinformation affects both individuals with a conspiratorial mindset and those with solid academic training. It highlighted that the stigmatization of conspiratorial thinking can reinforce social polarization, as those who question the official narrative tend to be grouped with extravagant theories. The report, based on a survey by the *Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology* (*FECYT*), reveals that concern about misinformation is shared by opposing sectors, and that healthy skepticism can be mistaken for denialism. The article addressed how the "conspiracist" label can divert public debate on sensitive issues like health and the pandemic.

This cycle of exposure and ridicule discredited legitimate questions about health policies, such as vaccine side effects (Chapter 4), by grouping them with baseless speculations.

- **Censorship of Legitimate Debates**

The *"Twitter Files"* (2022-2023) revealed that *Twitter*, under pressure from government agencies and pharmaceutical companies, removed content about the laboratory origin of *COVID-19* and vaccine side effects, labeling them as disinformation, even when based on data. Activists on social media highlighted how these policies silenced doctors like *Dr. Robert Malone*, while absurd theories were amplified to discredit skeptics. In Spain, posts about excess mortality in 2022, based on *Euromomo*, were flagged as "false" by social media moderators.

- **Psychology of Ridicule**

As seen earlier, a study published in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* titled "*Seeking solitude after being ostracized: A replication and beyond*" explored how individuals react emotionally to social exclusion (ostracism). Through three experiments with over a thousand participants, the researchers

found that ostracism generates a strong preference for isolation, which can reinforce social conformity. Instead of fostering critical thinking or confrontation, many people choose to withdraw, perpetuating their exclusion and reducing their active participation in public debate.

Posts on social media have pointed out how ridicule on social networks reinforces this censorship, perpetuating the perception that all skepticism is irrational, even when based on verifiable data, such as vaccine side effects (Chapter 4).

Analysis

The official narrative that conspiracies are a marginal danger conceals a disturbing truth: absurd theories are deliberately amplified to delegitimize serious critiques, protecting institutional power. As *Clarín* showed, bots and media promote *flat-earth* content to ridicule those who doubt official narratives, a mechanism that connects with the censorship of Chapter 12. During the pandemic, this strategy silenced debates about the laboratory origin (Chapter 1), vaccine side effects (Chapter 4), and nursing home management (Chapter 6), while sensationalist headlines diverted attention to extravagant ideas.

The belated validation of "conspiracies" demonstrates that skepticism is not madness, but lucidity. However, social stigmatization turns critics into pariahs, an echo of *Javier*'s ostracism (Chapter 6). Technology, like *deepfakes*, intensifies this circus, amplifying noise to drown out the signal, a theme that resonates with *AI* in Chapter 18.

The Old Cuckoo, scribbling under his lamp, would sum it up: "The circus is not accidental; it is a curtain to hide the puppeteers." This strategy, connected with the game of power (Chapter 13), protects elites while dividing society. The solution is not to embrace all theories, but to cultivate informed skepticism: seek primary sources, verify data, resist ridicule. Questions transform. Unmasking distraction is reclaiming our right to the truth.

Citizen's Story: Clara's Resistance

Imagine *Clara*, a 40-year-old teacher in Madrid, in the autumn of 2021. Her classroom is silent, but her mind is buzzing. On X, she reads about vaccine side effects in *EUDRA Vigilance*, but the media ignore it, focusing on *flat-earth* theories. *Clara* does not seek conspiracies; she seeks clarity. She shares a *Euromomo* report in a *WhatsApp* group, asking about excess mortality. The response is cruel: "Conspiracist," they call her. Her colleagues avoid her; her sister accuses her of "dividing the family."

Clara persists. She reads the *"Twitter Files"*, finds geoengineering patents, connects threads. In 2023, when the *FBI* validates the laboratory hypothesis, no one apologizes. *Clara* forms a group with parents to analyze official data, sharing findings on X. "We don't want to fight; we want to understand," she says. In 2025,

her group organizes public forums, challenging the media narrative. *Clara*, like *Lucía* (Chapter 16) and *Elena* (Chapter 19), transforms ridicule into resistance. “The Old Cuckoo said it,” she quotes: “The truth comes disguised as madness, but only the brave see it.”

Philosophical Reflection

In a world where social media amplify absurd theories and the media turn skepticism into a caricature, being a freethinker is to risk ridicule, but it is also an act of supreme courage. Every *flat-earth* theory that fills screens, every laugh that silences a legitimate question, is a reminder that the truth is not found in the comfort of the established, but in the relentless effort to seek beyond the deafening noise of the media circus.

As citizens, we face a monumental challenge: distinguishing between orchestrated distractions and the evidence that whispers uncomfortable truths. Are we willing to listen to that evidence, to question official narratives, even if the world calls us crazy or conspiracists? The answer defines not only what we believe, but who we are as individuals and as a society. The truth, as the Old Man wrote, “is not a prize to be claimed; it is a fire ignited by questions.” In a world designed to distract us, our power lies in igniting that fire, in seeking clarity amidst chaos, in building a future where the truth is a beacon that guides, not a shadow hidden behind the circus curtain.

The circus of absurd conspiracies, from *flat-earthism* to *deepfakes*, is a curtain to conceal uncomfortable truths. As we will see in Chapter 18, *AI*, used to manipulate or illuminate, is the next frontier in this battle, where disinformation can be both a weapon and a tool for freedom.

Chapter 18: AI and Disinformation: Ally or Threat?

Official Narrative

During the *COVID-19* pandemic, health authorities, governments, and media outlets presented artificial intelligence (*AI*) technologies and social media as neutral and powerful tools to combat the crisis. Platforms like *Twitter*, *Facebook*, and *YouTube* were promoted as essential channels for disseminating official information, from public health guidelines to vaccine updates. *AI* was praised as an ally in the fight against disinformation, capable of identifying and removing "fake news" on a large scale. Organizations such as the *World Health Organization* (*WHO*) and the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (*CDC*) collaborated with technology companies to ensure that authorized messages reached the masses, while content moderation algorithms were deployed to silence voices contradicting the official narrative. The promise was clear: technology, guided by science and good faith, would be a beacon of truth in a sea of rumors and conspiracies. However, the evidence reveals a more complex reality, where *AI* and social media not only amplified dominant narratives but also perpetuated biases, censored legitimate debates, and raised unsettling questions about who controls the truth in the digital era.

Evidences

The intersection of *AI*, social media, and disinformation during the pandemic is a terrain full of contradictions. While technology platforms positioned themselves as guardians of truth, their algorithms and moderation policies often served to reinforce official narratives, suppress dissent, and, in some cases, amplify polarization. Below are the key pieces of evidence that illustrate both the risks and the potential of *AI* in this context.

- **Algorithmic Biases**

Social media algorithms, designed to maximize engagement, played a crucial role in the dissemination of information during the pandemic. As seen previously, a study by *Nature Communications*, November 20, 2018, article titled "*The spread of low-credibility content by social bots*, conducted by researchers from *Indiana University* and other institutions, analyzed over 14 million messages on *Twitter* that spread 400,000 articles between 2016 and 2017. The authors found that social bots play a disproportionate role in amplifying low-credibility content, especially in the early stages of dissemination, before articles go viral. These bots target users with large followings through mentions and replies, increasing the likelihood that humans share such content.

In 2022, the *Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy* published "*The role of social media in polarizing Canadians*". This report analyzed how social platforms contribute to political polarization. Posts with morally indignant, divisive, or emotionally charged language tend to receive more interactions, incentivizing

users to adopt polarized narratives. Although most users are exposed to a variety of sources, a significant minority becomes trapped in biased informational environments, where extreme beliefs are reinforced. The study warns that these algorithmic biases are not neutral but are designed to maximize time spent on the platform, regardless of the veracity of the content.

- **Cases of Censorship on Platforms**

Censorship on social media was a central tool for controlling discourse during the pandemic. As seen throughout the book, the *"Twitter Files"* revealed that *Twitter*, under pressure from government agencies and pharmaceutical companies, removed posts questioning the efficacy of vaccines or mask mandates, even when supported by data. A notable example was the suspension of accounts of doctors like *Dr. Robert Malone*, who raised concerns about the side effects of *mRNA* vaccines, despite being a pioneer in the technology. In Spain, social media posts about excess mortality or other issues were flagged as "disinformation," despite citing official data from *Euromomo* or *EudraVigilance*.

- **Potential of AI to Detect Disinformation**

We are told that *AI* showed significant potential to combat disinformation. However, this potential is limited by the subjective definition of "disinformation." In April 2025, *Oxford Academic – Oxford Handbook of the Foundations and Regulation of Generative AI* published "*Generative AI and Content Moderation*": This chapter analyzed how generative artificial intelligence (*GenAI*) is transforming content moderation processes. The author warns that automated moderation systems are often trained on biased data, which can lead to unjustly penalizing critical content from political minorities, while official narratives, even with errors, may go unnoticed. The text underscores that these biases are not merely technical but reflect human decisions in data selection and algorithm design. Additionally, it argues that human-machine interaction must be strengthened, as fully delegating to *AI* can erode transparency and accountability. The chapter proposes that *GenAI* be used as a support tool, not a substitute for human judgment, especially in sensitive decisions affecting freedom of expression.

- **Centralized Control of Platforms**

The uniformity in content moderation policies across global platforms suggested coordination that transcended national borders. The U.S. Congress report (December 2024), analyzed in Chapter 5, highlighted that major technology companies collaborated with governments and international organizations to align their censorship policies, prioritizing official pandemic messages (U.S. Congress, 2024, report titled "*After Action Review of the COVID-19 Pandemic*").

In Europe, during the pandemic, the European Union strengthened its regulatory framework with the publication of *Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation*, officially presented on June 16, 2022. This document, developed by the *Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and*

Technology, obligated platforms like *Meta*, *Google*, *TikTok*, and *Microsoft* to implement strict measures to combat the spread of fake news, political disinformation, and algorithmic manipulation. Although the text defends respect for freedom of expression, critics warned that these measures could lead to indirect censorship, especially for dissident voices or narratives not aligned with official institutions. Additionally, this centralization raised questions about who defines the truth and how transparency in algorithmic processes is ensured.

This code was conceived as a voluntary guide but, after its revision, was integrated as a Code of Conduct within the *Digital Services Act* (*DSA*), granting it greater legal force and structured monitoring in all member states.

Analysis

The official narrative that *AI* and social media are neutral tools for informing society does not withstand scrutiny. During the pandemic, these technologies were double-edged swords, capable of amplifying dominant narratives and suppressing legitimate dissent. Social media algorithms, far from being impartial, are designed to prioritize user engagement, which often meant amplifying polarizing content, whether an alarmist official message or a sensationalist rumor. This design was not accidental; it was a commercial strategy that benefited technology companies but had devastating consequences for public discourse.

Censorship on platforms like *Twitter* and *Facebook*, backed by the *"Twitter Files"* and the 2024 Congress report, reveals a coordinated effort to protect official narratives at the expense of truth. The suspension of accounts of experts like *Dr. Robert Malone*, or the removal of posts citing official data, such as those from *Euromomo*, was not just an act of moderation; it was a form of narrative control that silenced valid questions about health policies and vaccine side effects. This censorship did not combat disinformation; it perpetrated it, by depriving society of an open debate that could have saved lives.

The potential of *AI* to detect disinformation is undeniable, but its effectiveness depends on who controls the data and defines the criteria. Algorithms trained on biased data, such as those provided by institutions with political agendas, can become tools to reinforce censorship rather than combat it. The case of the EU's Code of Conduct illustrates how *AI*, under strict regulations, can limit freedom of expression, prioritizing "safety" (or safety for power) over pluralism. On the other hand, transparently designed *AI* models have the potential to empower citizens, enabling them to verify information autonomously. The key question is not whether *AI* is good or bad, but who controls it and for what purpose.

The uniformity of global moderation policies, from the U.S. to Europe, suggests a global centralization of informational power that raises ethical concerns. As the Old Cuckoo wrote in his fictional blog *The Great Circus of Algorithms*: "If machines decide what we see and what we don't, who programs the machines?" This question, though poetic, reflects an unsettling reality: in a world where technology platforms and *AI* determine the flow of information, control over these

tools equates to control over the truth. During the pandemic, this power was in the hands of governments, pharmaceutical companies, and technology corporations, whose priority was not always transparency.

This does not imply that *AI* and social media lack benefits. Tools like *AI*-powered fact-checkers helped debunk dangerous rumors, and platforms enabled unprecedented global communication. However, disinformation arises as much from the censorship of legitimate issues or confirmed data as from selective amplification. The pressure to maintain an official narrative during the pandemic eroded public trust in the technologies that, in theory, were meant to protect it. The truth requires an ecosystem where *AI* is a tool of empowerment, not domination.

Citizen's Story: Li's Innovation

Imagine *Li*, a 27-year-old programmer in Shanghai, in 2024. Fed up with *deepfakes* amplifying absurd conspiracies, he develops an open-source tool to verify content. "*AI* can lie or liberate," he thinks. His software helps global citizens, connecting with *Clara* (Chapter 17). In 2025, *Li* leads online workshops, empowering *Elena* (Chapter 19). "We don't want to control; we want to clarify," he says. "The Old Cuckoo was right," he quotes: "The truth is a code we decipher together."

Philosophical Reflection

Imagine the Old Cuckoo, sitting in front of a screen, watching algorithms delete his posts about excess mortality while vaccine ads flood his feed. His neighbors call him paranoid, but the data—from the *"Twitter Files"* to *Nature*'s reports—do not lie. Every silenced voice, every suppressed debate, every citizen trapped in an algorithmic bubble deserves more than the indifference of machines. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo wrote, "is the authority, and not the other way around." In a world dominated by *AI* and data, our humanity is our greatest strength.

The pandemic forced us to confront an existential question: what role does humanity play in a world where elites control the machines that decide what we know and what we believe? *AI* can be a powerful ally, capable of illuminating disinformation, but also a threat if it becomes an instrument of control. Its potential depends on our ability to prioritize transparency, ethics, and freedom over power agendas. As citizens, our power lies in our willingness to question not only official narratives but also the technologies that sustain them. Can we build a future where *AI* serves the truth, not manipulation? In the search for that answer, we must remember that the truth is not an algorithm; it is a human commitment.

AI, with its power to filter or distort the truth, is a double-edged sword in the fight against disinformation. As we will see in Chapter 19, rewriting the future depends on using this technology with transparency, an echo of the citizen resistance challenging the system from the grassroots.

Chapter 19: Opinion: Rewriting the Future

Reflection on the Official Narrative

The truth, like a river that erodes the hardest stone, has the power to transform the world. Throughout this book, we have unraveled the shadows of disinformation: media manipulation (Chapter 10), institutional corruption (Chapter 11), the silencing of freethinkers like *RFK Jr.* (Chapter 12), covert power networks like the *Epstein* case (Chapter 13), the invisible game of power (Chapter 14), orchestrated distractions (Chapter 17), and the supreme value of freethinking (Chapter 16). Each chapter has been a step toward the light, an effort to illuminate the cracks in a system that wants us submissive, divided, blind. But this journey does not end in denunciation; it culminates in a promise: the truth, once embraced, empowers us to rewrite the future. From my voice as an author, with the Old Cuckoo scribbling hopes in his notebook, this chapter is a song to the possibility of a better world, a world where transparency, unity, and service to others replace the chains of control. Inspired by my dialogue with *the Old Man* in *A Luminous Future* (from my book *I Am Normal*), I reflect: how do we use the truth to build a home for humanity, a paradise on Earth?

Evidences

The truth is not a luxury; it is the force that tears down the walls of power and sows the seeds of a bright future. The evidence, from the victories of freethinkers to the citizen movements demanding transparency, shows that change is already underway, an echo of the previous chapters and the Old Cuckoo vision.

- **Victories of Freethinking**

As we saw in Chapter 16, questioning the *status quo* has borne fruit. The *Twitter Files* exposed censorship on social media, forcing a global debate on freedom of expression. The hypothesis of the laboratory origin of *COVID-19*, ridiculed in 2020, was validated as plausible by the *FBI* and the *Department of Energy* in 2023. In Spain, activists like Gabriel Araújo (@GabrielAraujoES), cited in Chapter 15, exposed electoral irregularities, compelling authorities to respond. A post on X celebrates: “Our questions are changing the world.” These victories, though small, are proof that the truth, when pursued with courage, transforms.

- **Citizen Movements for Transparency**

The demand for truth has ignited global movements. In Spain, the citizen platform “*Por la Verdad*” (For the Truth) gathered thousands in 2023 to demand independent investigations into nursing home deaths. In the U.S., the *Reclaim the Narrative* movement pressed in 2024 for the declassification of documents on pharmaceutical contracts. A post on X by @TruthSeeker2025 in May 2025 highlights how communities in Europe and Latin America use platforms like X to share official data, bypassing the media censorship that sadly persists on other

social networks. These movements show that the truth unites people beyond imposed divisions.

- **Resistance to Media Censorship**

As explored in Chapter 10, traditional media have lost credibility. *Pew Research Center* published on November 14, 2023, a report titled "*Americans' Trust in Scientists, Positive Views of Science Continue to Decline*", which reveals a concerning decline in Americans' trust in scientists, a trust that has significantly dropped following the *COVID-19* pandemic. Despite this decline, a significant majority of citizens (78%) still support public investment in scientific research.

On November 24, 2022, *The Objective* published "*La mitad de los españoles desconfía del Gobierno, según el CIS*" (Half of Spaniards Distrust the Government, according to the CIS). According to the *CIS Social Trends Survey*, more than half of Spaniards expressed distrust toward institutions such as the government, political parties, unions, and the media. On a scale of 1 to 10, the press received an average score of 4.2, placing it below a passing grade and reflecting a critical perception by the public. The report also notes that 51.2% of respondents fall within the lowest trust range (between 1 and 4) when asked about traditional media. The available data supports the idea of significant distrust toward conventional media in Spain during 2022. This distrust has driven alternative platforms like X, where citizens share primary reports.

Analysis

The truth is the antidote to the game of power described in Chapter 13. The pandemic showed us how elites, through the media (Chapter 10), corruption (Chapter 11), and censorship (Chapter 12), manipulated narratives to keep us submissive. But it also revealed our strength: freethinking (Chapter 16), citizen resistance, the capacity to unite beyond divisions. The victories of the *Twitter Files*, the revelations about *Epstein*, are proof that the truth, though slow, is unstoppable, an echo of the Old Cuckoo's perseverance.

Power wants us divided, fearful, trapped in distractions (Chapter 17). But the truth empowers us to rewrite the future: a world where transparency replaces opacity, where unity overcomes polarization, where love and service to others, as the Old Man proposed, is the foundation. This future is not a utopia; it is under construction. Citizen movements, from *Por la Verdad* in Spain to *Reclaim the Narrative* in the U.S., are some of the architects of this change.

The path is not without pain. The victims of nursing homes, the silenced like *Lucía*, the socially excluded like *Javier*, remind us of the cost of disinformation. But their legacy is our strength: every question we ask, every piece of data we share, is a brick in the new home for humanity. As the Old Man said in *I Am Normal*, "everything is possible for Love." The truth, when embraced with love, does not destroy; it builds. In a world still facing the "last desperate attempts" of those resisting change, our mission is clear: to be co-creators of a bright future, a future where the truth is not a luxury, but a right.

Citizen's Story: Elena's Vision

Imagine *Elena*, a 29-year-old engineer in Barcelona, in the summer of 2025. Her apartment is filled with light, with notes pinned to the wall: links to *Euromomo*, clippings from *The Lancet*, screenshots from X. Five years ago, *Elena* believed in the headlines: vaccines would save, lockdowns would protect. But the death of her grandmother in a nursing home, sedated with *midazolam*, and the thrombosis of her best friend after the second dose, shattered her faith. *Elena* began to doubt, to read, to connect threads. Each piece of data was a spark that ignited her hope.

Elena was not alone. In her neighborhood, she formed a study group with neighbors: doctors, teachers, students. Together, they analyzed official data, shared findings on X, organized open forums. "We don't want confrontation; we want to understand," *Elena* said. At first, they faced mockery: "conspiracists," "denialists." But their rigor protected them. When the *FBI* revisited *Epstein*'s files in 2025, *Elena* connected the dots with local networks, inspiring peaceful actions.

In 2025, *Elena*'s group grew, uniting hundreds in Barcelona. They created a support network for victims of side effects, a community garden to foster self-sufficiency, a digital platform to share data. Her vision was clear: a transparent society, where the truth unites, not divides. *Elena* was not a leader; she was a co-creator, like everyone in the world. Her community, like *Lucía*'s (Chapter 16) and *Clara*'s (Chapter 17), was a glimpse of the bright future the Old Cuckoo dreamed of, a world where love for others is the force that builds.

Philosophical Reflection

The Old Cuckoo, sitting in his study under a flickering lamp, scribbles: "The truth is not an end; it is a beginning." Every thread we unravel—a media lie, an institutional cover-up, an orchestrated distraction—is a step toward freedom. *Elena*, like *Javier*, *Clara*, *Lucía*, and those silenced by power, embodies the courage to embrace the truth, not as a trophy, but as a foundation. The pandemic showed us the fragility of our faith in institutions, but also our strength: the capacity to doubt, to question, to unite, to create.

Rewriting the future, as the Old Man proposed in *I Am Normal*, is not waiting for a miracle; it is building it. The truth empowers us to tear down regressive structures—the media that lie, the elites that conceal, the systems that divide—and replace them with communities of service, transparency, and unity. This process, as the Old Man said, will not be evident for years, but it is already underway. Citizen movements, platforms like X, *AI* used ethically (Chapter 18), are the tools of this silent revolution.

The challenge is to maintain hope amidst chaos. The "last desperate attempts" of those resisting change, as the Old Man warned, will bring obstacles. But, like *Elena*, we must persevere. The truth, embraced with love, is not a weapon of destruction; it is a seed of creation. As the Old Man wrote: "The future is not

awaited; it is forged, question by question, heart by heart." In a world still struggling against shadows, our mission is to be beacons, co-creators of a home where humanity lives in harmony.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, imagine you are in Elena's Garden, with your hands in the soil, surrounded by neighbors who share not only food, but truths. Every headline you question, every fact you verify, every conversation you start, is a seed in this new world. The fight for truth is not solitary; it is collective, a chorus of millions who, like you, want to rewrite the future.

The vision of a bright future, built by citizens like *Elena*, is a rebellion against the power that divides us. In Chapter 5, the U.S. Congress report showed us how institutions betrayed that trust, a reminder that the truth we seek must be forged together, question by question.

Take a moment. Think of the times you doubted, but stayed silent. Now, act: read a primary report, join a study group, share a spark of truth. You do not need to be a hero; you need to be you, with your curiosity, your courage, your love. The truth does not come alone; it is built, and you are an architect. What role will you play? Form your community, light your beacon, persevere. As the Old Cuckoo said, "we are normal, but together we create the extraordinary." The bright future is in your hands. Are you ready to write it?

Chapter 20: The UCO and Military Intelligence: Guardians of Truth

Introduction

Some militarized institutions are responsible for protecting security and justice. They are the bulwarks of the people's protection, operating with transparency to safeguard collective well-being. In Spain, the Central Operative Unit (UCO) of the Civil Guard, along with military intelligence agencies, stands as a symbol of the fight against organized crime, terrorism, and corruption. Official media were forced to reinforce this image, highlighting high-profile arrests and successful operations as proof of their commitment to the public interest. Governments and spokespersons assure that these institutions act with autonomy, free from external influences and guided by the rule of law. Behind this facade of rectitude, a silent battle is waged against a hidden power that, as we have seen in previous chapters, manipulates narratives (Chapter 10), silences dissenters (Chapter 13), and corrupts the foundations of society (Chapter 11). The UCO and military intelligence, working in the shadows, face global networks that transcend borders, protecting a population that, in many cases, is not yet prepared to face the magnitude of the truth they already know.

Evidences

The UCO and military intelligence agencies have proven to be key actors in the fight against corruption and covert crimes, often in coordination with international organizations. Their investigations, though partially leaked, reveal a power system that transcends borders, connecting with disinformation (Chapter 2), illicit trafficking (Chapter 14), and electoral fraud (Chapter 15).

- **Operations Against Corruption**

In Spain, the UCO has uncovered scandals that expose the depth of systemic corruption. In June 2025, a leaked report to *El Mundo* revealed irregularities in public contracts during the pandemic, implicating high-ranking officials and companies linked to major parties (*El Mundo*, June 2, 2025, "*El informe de la IGAE detecta irregularidades en una de las adjudicaciones al empresario para el que Begoña Gómez escribió cartas de recomendación"* [The IGAE Report Detects Irregularities in One of the Adjudications to the Businessman for Whom Begoña Gómez Wrote Recommendation Letters]). In particular, a contract awarded by *Red.es* in March 2021 benefited a company linked to Juan Carlos Barrabés, a businessman close to Begoña Gómez, wife of President Pedro Sánchez, who allegedly wrote recommendation letters to support the adjudication. The report notes that subjective technical criteria were overvalued, to the detriment of objective criteria like price, which would violate the Public Sector Contracts Law. Additionally, the participation of the *Red.es* Board of Directors in the technical evaluation is questioned, when an independent committee should have intervened. Other five contracts linked to the same company were also reviewed, some of which were referred to the European

Prosecutor's Office due to the use of community funds. This case is part of a broader judicial investigation involving high-ranking officials and companies linked to major parties, in the context of alleged irregularities in the management of public funds during the pandemic.

Unofficial sources, cited on X by @NonNobis10 (06/15/2025), assure that this report only shows 10% of the collected evidence, including recordings, bank transfers, and testimonies that could topple both the government and the opposition.

In *El Confidencial*, the article titled "*La Audiencia condena a Villarejo a 19 años de cárcel en el primer juicio de la macrocausa*" (The Court Sentences Villarejo to 19 Years in Prison in the First Trial of the Macro-Case), published on July 24, 2023, reports that the National Court sentenced former commissioner José Manuel Villarejo to 19 years in prison for crimes of revealing secrets and documentary falsification. The ruling refers to three pieces of the *Tándem* case that reveal private espionage practices from his company while he was still active. Although he was acquitted of the bribery charge, it was proven that he acted in the private sphere to profit through illicit methods. The Central Operative Unit (UCO) of the Civil Guard was crucial in the investigation, providing documentary evidence and audios that were validated by the magistrates, who highlighted the correct chain of custody and authenticity of the records.

Vozpópuli, on June 20, 2025, addresses investigations initiated in 2024 by the Central Operative Unit (UCO) of the Civil Guard on alleged diversions of European funds linked to post-COVID recovery (article "*400 millones en fondos europeos, en riesgo de quedar comprometidos por los contratos investigados por la UCO*" [400 Million in European Funds at Risk of Being Compromised by the Contracts Investigated by the UCO]). The UCO investigated dozens of public works contracts awarded in various autonomous communities—including Andalusia, Navarre, Madrid, and the Valencian Community—that may have been rigged to benefit companies close to political figures like José Luis Ábalos and Santos Cerdán. At least five of these contracts were financed with community funds, such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism. Additionally, bribes exceeding 620,000 euros and links to tax havens were identified, as evidenced by recordings and documents seized by the UCO. Among the highlighted works are railway projects in Murcia and Barcelona, as well as social housing in Navarre.

Spanish media have reported a series of UCO investigations that incriminate the government and political parties, revealing the depth of systemic corruption.

On July 8, 2025, *El Independiente* published an extensive report titled "*La investigación de la UCO resucita las compras de mascarillas de Adif a la trama Koldo*" (The UCO Investigation Revives Adif's Mask Purchases from the Koldo Plot) about how the UCO has reactivated the investigation into the purchase of 5 million masks by *Adif* in 2020, awarded to the company *Soluciones de Gestión SL*, linked to businessman Víctor de Aldama. The search of the home of Isabel Pardo de Vera, former president of *Adif*, revealed internal documents ratifying the

emergency contract. Digital evidence such as a laptop, a pendrive, and handwritten notes were also seized. The National Court is investigating possible crimes of embezzlement, influence peddling, bribery, prevarication, and criminal organization. Pardo de Vera will have to testify as an accused on July 21, 2025.

These investigations, which connect with Chapter 11, demonstrate how corruption permeates all levels of the political spectrum, historically protected by a media silence that the UCO is beginning to break.

- **International Collaboration**

Marbella Confidencial, on June 13, 2024, published the article "*La UCO y Europol desmantelan el poderoso cártel de cocaína de los Balcanes con ramificaciones en Marbella*" (The UCO and Europol Dismantle the Powerful Balkans Cocaine Cartel with Ramifications in Marbella). In June 2024, the Central Operative Unit (UCO) of the Civil Guard, together with Europol, culminated Operation Adriática, which completely dismantled an international drug trafficking network known as the Balkans cartel. This criminal organization operated in Europe with logistical links in West Africa and commercial routes from Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia to Spain. The operation, which lasted four years, succeeded in seizing eight tons of cocaine, blocking more than 50 million euros in Serbia, and arresting forty individuals across several countries. The deployment included interventions in Marbella, the Canary Islands, and other key locations.
La Voz de Galicia, on January 27, 2025, published an article titled *La UCO destapa una «enorme» red de blanqueo que «abusaba» de las facilidades a los refugiados ucranianos* [The UCO Uncovers a "Vast" Money Laundering Network that "Exploited" Facilities for Ukrainian Refugees]. In January 2025, the Central Operative Unit, in coordination with Europol, dismantled an international money laundering network that exploited exemptions granted by the European Union to Ukrainian refugees since 2022. The organization, led by two Ukrainian brothers and composed of citizens from Eastern Europe and Asia, had allegedly laundered at least 75 million euros between 2023 and 2024. The operation led to the arrest of 23 individuals, 91 searches, and the seizure of more than 8 million euros in cash, 27 million euros in cryptocurrencies, vehicles, jewelry, and properties.

These actions, which connect with Chapter 14, reveal the global scale of organized crime, protected by hidden power.

- **Cerdán Case: Cancellation of Accounts and International Financial Network**

Vozpópuli, on July 7, 2025, published the article "*225 de las 479 cuentas bancarias investigadas por la UCO en el caso Cerdán ya han sido canceladas*" (225 of the 479 Bank Accounts Investigated by the UCO in the Cerdán Case Have Already Been Canceled) in which it reported that the Central Operative Unit (UCO) of the Civil Guard has made significant progress in the Cerdán case, where an alleged scheme of illegal commissions related to public adjudications is being investigated. Of the 479 bank accounts analyzed, 225 have already been

canceled, some within weeks, representing nearly half of the total. These accounts span 35 banking entities across three continents, including countries like Morocco, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, and Brazil, reflecting an international financial network. The investigation covers accounts active since the 90s to recent openings and cancellations, and the UCO has requested detailed information on holders, identifications, addresses, and movements over 300 euros, managing communication discreetly with the banks' central services to protect the operation. Additionally, other banking products such as safety deposit boxes, cards, transfers, and checks are being reviewed, highlighting the complexity and scope of the financial engineering under scrutiny. The scale and sophistication of the investigation stand out, reinforcing the narrative about the UCO's capacity to address high-complexity cases.

- **Investigations into Fraud in PSOE Primaries**

The Central Operative Unit (UCO) of the Civil Guard discovered compromising messages between Santos Cerdán, current secretary of Organization of the PSOE, and Koldo García, former advisor to José Luis Ábalos. In a conversation dated July 13, 2014, Cerdán allegedly instructed García to introduce two ballots into a ballot box without being seen, during the primaries that gave victory to Pedro Sánchez as general secretary of the party. The report, nearly 500 pages, was delivered to the Supreme Court and forms part of a broader investigation into alleged irregular awards and links between socialist leaders and construction companies. These facts were reflected in a *Vozpópuli* report from June 12, 2025, which revealed that the PSOE primaries won by Pedro Sánchez were rigged, with testimonies indicating practices like 'put two ballots in without anyone seeing you' (*Vozpópuli*, June 2025, article titled "*Las primarias del PSOE que ganó Sánchez fueron amañadas: 'Mete dos papeletas sin que nadie te vea*'" [The PSOE Primaries Won by Sánchez Were Rigged: 'Put Two Ballots In Without Anyone Seeing You']).

The scandal has generated strong internal tensions in the PSOE and has revived criticisms about the legitimacy of Sánchez's leadership.

Analysis

The Central Operative Unit and military intelligence operate in a terrain where each step toward the truth risks a social collapse. Their investigations reveal a system where corruption is the norm, protected by a hidden power that manipulates the media (Chapter 10) and silences dissenters (Chapter 12). The international collaboration of the Central Operative Unit, confronting human trafficking, governmental corruption, and drug trafficking, exposes the global scale of these networks, connecting with the mafia discussed in Chapter 14. Their caution responds to a reality: the population, conditioned by decades of disinformation from the media (Chapter 2), might defend their oppressors if the truth emerges abruptly.

The media cover-up, funded by government campaigns, reinforces this social resistance, while active disinformation discredits whistleblowers. The challenge is titanic: reveal the truth without triggering an irrational defense of the criminals by the population, a risk that the Old Cuckoo describes as “the herd defending the wolf.” The UCO, with patience, balances this dilemma, advancing slowly to prepare society, while certain complex judicial processes must progress gradually from the base of the corruption pyramid to finally corner the leaders, when their supports are already prosecuted.

In this book, I have followed this same principle of caution, as I have not revealed the full extent of the data I possess. My true opinion transcends what is exposed in each theme and intertwines more complex realities, but for now, to achieve the desired impact, a more measured exposition like the one presented suffices.

The magnitude of the crimes—corruption, human trafficking, fund diversions—suggests a network that operates with impunity, protected by global elites. Speculations about depopulation, without evidence, though heard endlessly by philanthropists, reflect a legitimate distrust after years of deception. The UCO, like a beacon in the darkness, illuminates these shadows, but its work depends on citizens awakening, like *Elena* (Chapter 19). Only a conscious people can sustain the truth without fracturing, a challenge that resonates with the bright future of Chapter 19.

“Why is everything so slow, Old Man?” I asked, seeing his notes on the UCO. “The truth is a bitter medicine,” he replied, scribbling. “People love their chains if they believe they are jewels. The UCO and military intelligence have it all, but they wait for you to open your eyes. Be patient, ask, unite others. The bright future is born from your courage.”

Citizen’s Story: Elena’s Shadow

Imagine *Elena*, a 40-year-old official in Madrid, in 2024. Her desk was full of files: suspicious contracts, opaque transfers. As an analyst, she noticed irregularities in pandemic funds, but her boss stopped her: “Don’t ask.” *Elena* shared her doubts on X, anonymously. A UCO leak confirmed her suspicions, but trolls attacked her: “traitor,” “conspiracist.” Her family avoided her, fearing for her job; her colleagues isolated her. Loneliness consumed her, and nights were filled with fear: had she gone too far? A recurring nightmare haunted her: a blind herd defending wolves with shepherds' masks. But a message from an activist gave her strength: “Your truth saves lives.” *Elena* testified in a lawsuit, uniting her voice with others. She organized secret meetings with colleagues, sharing press data. When the UCO revealed part of the report, *Elena* felt relief. Her struggle, like *Sofía*’s (Chapter 12), was a spark of the bright future that Humanity is creating.

Philosophical Reflection

The Old Cuckoo, sitting in front of a police station, writes: “The truth is a fire that burns, but also illuminates.” Every UCO report, every leak on X, is a spark that threatens the veil of hidden power. *Elena*, like *Miguel*, shows us that corruption is not invincible; it crumbles before the courage of those who ask. The UCO and military intelligence, faceless heroes, remind us that justice is a conquest. In a world where elites deceive the herd, as we saw in Chapter 10, our power is to awaken, unite, resist. Speculations about global agendas, born from legitimate distrust after years of manipulation. The search for truth, as the Old Man said, is our weapon, a beacon that guides toward a free society, united by clarity, not fractured by deception.

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, think of *Elena*, her fear, her courage. Think of the truths you sense, but fear to name. The UCO fights in the shadows, but you are the light. Seek the data, follow activist accounts, form your network. The truth is not in the headlines; it is in you. Are you ready to write your story?

Chapter 21: Conclusion: The Truth as a Path

The Complete Puzzle

The truth that we have pursued is not a mosaic of isolated facts; it is a puzzle where each piece confirms the others, revealing a system of control that transcends borders and eras. The evidence, summarized from the previous chapters and enriched with citizen movements from 2025, shows that disinformation is a deliberate design, but also that resistance is growing.

Looking at the complete puzzle is an act of courage. Each chapter of this book—from the origin of COVID-19 to electoral interference—is a piece that, when fitted together, reveals a system designed to keep us submissive. The deaths in nursing homes were not errors; they were symptoms of an orchestrated corruption that protected elites. The pandemic censorship and that of dissidents like RFK Jr. was not protection; it was narrative control, as seen in the media of Chapter 10. The media distractions (Chapter 17) are not coincidences; they are strategies to divert our gaze from the corruption of power.

What does this puzzle show us beyond its pieces? It shows us a world where the truth is the enemy of power, where the institutions that swear to protect us—governments, media—are often its guardians. It confronts us with an uncomfortable reality: we have delegated our sovereignty, accepting narratives that divide us while power prospers. Can we continue to see reality as before, believing in headlines, obeying without doubt? The answer is no. The complete puzzle challenges us to mature as humans, to recognize our capacity to discern, unite, and act. It asks us: do we have the courage to assume our sovereignty, to accept that we are co-creators of our destiny, not pawns in someone else's game? Do we say “enough” to the system that chains us?

This “enough” is not a cry of rage; it is a commitment to the search for truth, like that of Javier, Clara, Lucía, and Elena. Each thread we pull—the “Twitter Files,” movements like “*For the Truth*”—is a brick in a new world. As we saw in Chapter 16, free thinking does not isolate us; it unites us. The puzzle is not a condemnation; it is an invitation to build, to say “enough” with actions that transform, from a local forum to a post on X. The truth, as the Old Cuckoo dreamed, is our path to freedom.

Citizen Story: Sofía's Awakening

Imagine Sofía, a 45-year-old teacher in Granada, in March 2025. Her classroom is full of students reciting headlines about pandemics, climate, and elections, but something in their voices sounds hollow. Sofía remembers 2020: the mandatory masks, the vaccine promises, the silence about her aunt, who died in a nursing home. One day, she finds a copy of *Disinformation: The Price of Trust* in the library. She reads about the nursing homes (Chapter 6), the elites (Chapter 13), the NGOs (Chapter 14), and feels the pieces fitting together. She searches

on X for activist accounts, shares reports not mentioned by the mass media. Her colleagues label her “conspiranoic”; her daughter tells her “mom, stop.” Loneliness envelops her, but a post on X gives her courage: “The truth begins with you.” Sofía organizes a workshop in her school. In 2025, her group grows, uniting parents, doctors, activists. “Enough,” says Sofía, not with anger, but with love. Her awakening, like a beacon, illuminates others, an echo of the resistance we have traced in this book.

Final Reflection: The Truth as Sovereignty

The Old Cuckoo, closing his notebook under a starry sky, leaves a legacy of whispers that resonate on every page of this book. “The truth begins with a spark of doubt,” he scribbled, reminding us that every question, from the origins of the virus to the networks of power, illuminates the shadows. “It is not delivered in official communiqués; it is conquered with questions,” he murmured, celebrating the rebellion of those who doubt. “It is not found in offices; it is in the hearts that dare to doubt,” he wrote, honoring the citizens who challenge corruption. “It is not silenced with labels; it strengthens with every voice that defends it,” he noted, raising up the silenced. “It is a spark that ignites the will of a people,” he whispered, dreaming of united communities. And with a smile, he scribbled: “It is a code that we decipher together,” a song to our union in the digital age. These words, like beacons, guide our path, a reminder that the truth is not an end, but a trail we forge with love and courage.

Sofía, under the light of her classroom, embodies this legacy. Each piece of the puzzle that she deciphered—each chapter she read—was a step toward her sovereignty, a challenge to the power that wants us submissive. The truth is not a trophy; it is a responsibility. It demands maturity to accept what we are: humans capable of questioning, creating, resisting. It demands courage to say “enough” to the lies that divide us, to the elites that manipulate us, to the distractions that blind us. This puzzle, as the Old Man dreamed in *I Am Normal*, does not condemn us; it liberates us. It shows us that reality is not fixed; it is a canvas that we paint together, with every question, every action, every community. The truth is our resistance, our hope, our path toward a world where love for our neighbor prevails. Will we have the courage to walk it?

Invitation to the Reader

Reader, imagine that you are with Sofía, holding this book, feeling the weight of its fitted pieces. Each chapter you have read—from the nursing homes to the networks of power, from climate alarmism to the NGOs—is a piece of the puzzle that confronts you: can you continue to see reality as before? The truth challenges you to assume your sovereignty, to mature as a human, to say “enough” to the system that chains you. You are not alone. Form your workshop, like Sofía; share a fact, like Lucía; sow a seed, like Elena. You do not need to be a martyr; you need to be yourself, with your curiosity and your heart. Share this

book, with a friend, a neighbor, a stranger. The truth is a fire that you ignite with your voice. Are you ready to say “enough” and forge the path?

A Seed for the Truth

This book, *Disinformation: The Price of Trust*, is a beacon in a world of shadows, a collective effort to unravel the narratives that divide us and empower each reader with the truth. Its value is immense: each page bears the mark of extensive research, a dialogue with artificial intelligence, and a deep commitment to social justice. But the truth does not belong to a few; it is a right of all. That is why we offer it under a **Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-ND)** license, which allows it to be shared freely, respecting its authorship and original content. Download it, send it, print it: let the search for truth spread without barriers.

If you decide to acquire it on Amazon in paper format, you will find it at the lowest price the platform allows, because our purpose is the search for truth through critical thinking, not profit. The power of this book is in your hands. Share it with a friend, in a forum, in your community. Each copy that circulates is a seed that ignites the awakening to a new society, a step toward the luminous future we build together. As the Old Cuckoo said: “The truth is not kept; it is sown.” Reader, be the seed. Spread this book, and let the search for truth prevail.

Ponciano Ramírez

July 13, 2025

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Chapter 21: Conclusion: Truth as a Path

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